FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-095
Wednesday
17 May 1995

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-095 *17 May 1995*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian-Israeli Talks on Elections Continue

'Asfur: 'Principal' Agreement Reached

JN1605151695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1330 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hasan 'Asfur, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo talks with the Israelis, has said that a principal agreement has been reached, under which the Palestinians will be in charge of maintaining security during the legislative elections.

Speaking before the resumption of today's round of talks, 'Asfur said that the two sides will continue their discussion of the electoral campaigns and international supervision of elections. He noted that there are no substantial differences on the issue of supervision.

'Asfur added that other basic issues are still disputed with the Israelis, including the eligibility of the Palestinian residents of occupied Jerusalem to run for election.

Palestinian Police To Provide Security

NC1605173095 Paris AFP in English 1449 GMT 16 May 95

[By Hassan Mekki]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, May 16 (AFP) — Palestinian police will control security during self-rule elections, a PLO official said here Tuesday [16 May] as Israel and the Palestinians stepped up talks on extending autonomy to the West Bank.

"Palestinians will be in charge of public order in the elections," the head Palestinian negotiator Sa'ib 'Urayqat said.

"This means that if the Israelis redeploy outside of this area it must be matched simultaneously by the deployment of Palestinian security forces," he added.

Israel and the PLO began three days of talks in Cairo on Monday to speed up an agreement on the long-delayed elections of a Palestinian self-rule council ahead of a July 1 deadline.

But 'Urayqat was skeptical about reaching the deadline.

"I very much doubt there is a possibility of striking an agreement by the target date and I have seen no willingness from the other side to reach such an accord," he said.

Israeli head negotiator Yo'el Singer said talks would focus on security issues as public meetings, demonstrations and security in voting booths, as well as fixing a date for electoral registration.

Palestinian negotiator Hasan 'Usfur said "in principle there is no difference of opinion and no objection from the Israelis" to Palestinians keeping the peace during elections.

He added that Palestinian control over security during elections is "closely linked to redeployment."

Under the Declaration of Principles signed by Israel and the PLO in September 1992, Israeli troops were to pull out of West Bank population centers before the holding of elections, now 10 months behind schedule.

Plans for Israeli police to redeploy on the West Bank are ready, Israel's state radio reported Tuesday. But police spokesman Eric Bar Chen refused to comment on the report.

'Usfur said Israel and the PLO were agreed on canvassing and international supervision over the Palestinian polls but added that "disagreements exist on other basic issues such as the inhabitants of East Jerusalem."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, meanwhile, ruled out the PLO demand that Jerusalem's 155,000 Palestinians be allowed to run for office in a self-rule council.

"There will be no ballot boxes in Jerusalem and the inhabitants of East Jerusalem will not be able to stand for election," he said.

The Israeli premier added that his country would carry out a population census in the West Bank and not the PLO which had said it would prepare election rolls.

"We are going to take on 5,000 Palestinian teachers to go from house to house to check the Palestinians' identity papers," he said.

Negotiators from the two sides also met in Tel Aviv on Tuesday for parallel talks on the transfer of further powers to the Palestinians on the West Bank, an Israeli military spokeswoman said.

The one-day talks would deal with the transfer of authority over labour, trade and industry, energy, insurance and postal services, she said.

'Urayqat Doubtful of 1 Jul Elections

NC1705062495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2155 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)— Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, has doubted the possibility of holding

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legislative Palestinian elections on 1 July, as was agreed upon earlier.

The head of the Palestinian delegation said in statements this evening: We did not feel any desire in the Israeli side to reach such an agreement. He pointed out that the Palestinian police are ready to keep the peace during the legislative council elections. The process of deploying Palestinian forces in the areas where the elections will be held will take place at the same time as the redeployment of the Israeli forces outside the Palestinian villages and towns.

On the other hand, Mr. Hasan 'Asfur, official responsible for elections in the PNA, affirmed that the Israeli side does not object in principle to having the Palestinians take on security procedures for the elections.

He pointed out that the scope of action and responsibility of the Palestinian police during these elections is still under discussion between the two sides.

He said that the two delegations will resume their negotiations tomorrow on the elections and international supervision of these elections. He pointed out that there is still a major conflict between the two sides regarding the status of the Jerusalem residents and their participation in these elections.

It is worth mentioning that tomorrow, Wednesday 17 May, will be the third and last day of this round of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on holding legislative elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Delegations Resume Talks

NC1705102495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 17 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 May (MENA)—The Palestinian and Israeli delegations resumed their talks on legislative elections in the West Bank and Gaza in Cairo today.

The Palestinian delegation is led by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian National Authority, while the Israelis are led by Yo'el Singer, legal adviser to the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

The negotiators are trying to overcome obstacles blocking the implementation of the self-rule agreements' second phase. Specifically, the talks deal with elections, the legislative council's composition, nature, jurisdiction, and number of members, and Jerusalem residents' participation in nominations and voting. They also deal with the Israeli forces' redeployment away from populated areas in the West Bank and Gaza. These issues are still disputed by the two sides.

Progress Reported at Power Transfer Talks

TA1605171395 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli-Palestinian talks on the transfer of five additional civilian powers in Judaea and Samaria were resumed today. Both sides voiced satisfaction with the progress of talks and announced that they had agreed on a timetable for the transfer of powers over the coming two months. Our correspondent Yariv Ben-Yehuda reports:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Yehuda] Both sides seem to wish to conclude the issue quickly. The Israelis and Palestinians announced that the agreement on the transfer of powers in the spheres of labor, trade and industry, oil and gas, insurance, and postal services will be signed by 1 July and implemented by the end of July. Major General Oren Shahor, coordinator of government activities in the territories, who also heads the Israeli delegation, and his Palestinian counterparts agreed on a timetable for negotiations at their first meeting, which lasted a mere two hours, in Tel Aviv today.

[Shahor] We agreed that labor would be the first power we will transfer and that later, technical working groups would be established to help us remain within as speedy a timetable as possible. We have located some problematic aspects in the issues of taxation, money, and implementation.

[Ben-Yehuda] Chief Palestinian delegate Jamil al-Tarifi requested the transfer of other powers, including communications, radio, and television. Gen. Shahor promised that the matter would be taken under consideration.

At least today no disagreements came up at the talks. The Palestinians, including al-Tarifi, announced that they were pleased with the pace of progress.

[Al-Tarifi, in English] I am satisfied, and I hope that we will continue in this attitude and that we will continue in this positive way and this positive atmosphere. [end recording]

The discussions will continue this week. Next week they will move to Cairo.

Beilin Meets With Tunisian Counterpart in Switzerland

TA1705082995 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 May 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin met with the Tunisian deputy foreign minister

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in Switzerland today. This is reported by our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik who notes that Tunisia has refrained from high-level meetings with Israelis.

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Welcomes EU Statement on Jerusalem Land

NC1605112995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1058 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—The Arab League Secretariat General has expressed satisfaction with the statement issued yesterday by the European Union [EU] detailing its stance on Israel's confiscation of Arab land in Jerusalem and on the peace process in the Middle East.

In a statement issued today the Secretariat General praised the EU's positive and constructive stance and said it falls in line with EU positions on the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestinian issue, and the Middle East peace process, particularly the need for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and for east Jerusalem to be regarded as part of these territories.

The statement expressed the hope that the EU's positive and constructive stance will contribute to the adoption of a resolution that reflects this EU position during the Security Council's discussion of Israel's confiscation of Arab territories.

The Arab League Secretariat General also expressed the hope that the EU will continue its efforts to strengthen and back the Security Council principles and resolutions on which the peace process is based and that ensure the achievement of the just and comprehensive peace the positive consequences of which would benefit all the peoples of the region. Concluding, the statement highlighted the importance of developing Arab-European relations.

League Chief Arrives in Rabat for Mini-Summit

LD1605141795 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Arab League, arrived in Morocco today. In a statement to the press at Rabat-Sale airport he stressed that this visit comes within the framework of inter-Arab contacts to discuss a proposal for the convening of a restricted Arab summit on the issue of Jerusalem.

[Begin 'Abd-al-Majid recording] I want to express my pleasure and happiness at being in Morocco. I am happy that I will be meeting his majesty the king to discuss with him an important and vital issue. I am fully aware of his majesty's interest and that of the Arab and Islamic nation in the issue of Jerusalem. The meeting held in Cairo on 6 May at the premises of the Arab League decided to call a summit in the wake of the Israeli violation of Arab and Islamic rights in Jerusalem. This decision urged the secretary general to make contacts — this being coupled with Morocco and the United Arab Emirates submitting the problem to the Security Council — a matter that is now under way.

I want to praise what was said at the Security Council meetings by the Arab group, and particularly the speech made by the Moroccan permanent representative. It was a great speech which we fully appreciate. Concerning the idea of convening an Arab summit, or a restricted Arab summit, a proposal in this respect was submitted to the Arab League meeting on 6 May. I sent a letter to His Majesty King Hassan II about this and about other issues. His Majesty kindly invited me to come here today, and I am happy with this opportunity. I will be briefing the king on this subject and I will listen to his directives. Perhaps, God willing, things will become clearer. This is the purpose of my visit and statements on this will be made as matters develop. [end recording]

Mini-Summit To Focus on Jerusalem

NC1605185195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—MENA has learned that the expected Arab mini-summit will be confined to the Arab members of the Organization of Islamic Conference's Jerusalem Committee. It also has learned that intensive Arab contacts are being held on this subject and on the grounds that there is an urgent need to discuss the Israeli practices in Jerusalem. Thus, the countries expected to attend the summit are Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Sudan, and Mauritania. The summit will also be attended by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

Diplomatic sources told MENA that the Arab and Islamic countries see a pressing need for specific measures to put an end to Israel's position, and they believe that this is possible only through a summit where secondary differences are transcended and true interests are considered.

The diplomatic sources said the Islamic countries are turning their attention to the role that King Hassan II of Morocco is playing in his capacity as the current chairman of the Organization of Islamic Conference and the chairman of the organization's most vital committees, the Jerusalem Committee. The whole issue relates to Israeli practices in Jerusalem and to Israel's defiance of

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the sentiments of all Muslims and of international resolutions and bilateral agreements between Jordan and Palestine.

MENA has learned that the summit will be preceded by a meeting for the foreign ministers of the aforementioned states to prepare an agenda. The agenda is expected to include two parts. The first concerns Israeli violations in Jerusalem. The second evaluates the entire peace process on its bilateral and multilateral tracks since the launching of the Madrid conference in 1991.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat's Office Denies Urging Withdrawal of Motion

TA1705104195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Arafat's office denies Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah's remarks that 'Arafat asked him to withdraw the no-confidence motion in the Knesset. Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, 'Arafat's media adviser, told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the PLO does not intervene in Israeli domestic affairs.

MK Darawshah said his party's secretariat will discuss the issue later in the week and the decision will be based on Israeli party considerations and not on 'Arafat's request.

'Abd-al-Shafi Calls For 'National Emergency Leadership'

TA1605175595 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 16 May 95 p 2

[Report by Zaki Abu-al-Halawah and Muhammad Abu-Khudayr]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem — Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, former head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has called for suspending the talks with Israel in light of Israel's continued violations of Palestinian rights. He said that Arab and international capitals should be approached and informed of the reality of the obstructive Israeli stance that is opposed to the concept of peace and to international laws and agreements.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi told AL-QUDS that there is no benefit in continuing the peace process, which is not making progress and lacks credibility, while Israel is exploiting the process for its own benefit and is deluding the world that there is a peace process.

He added that suspending the talks will give the Palestinians the opportunity to think about what steps they should take and how to confront this imminent danger — "confiscations and the Israeli Government's measures."

He added that we will have no means to confront this danger except by achieving Palestinian unity that comprises all Palestinian factions and by creating a collective leadership until proper legislative elections are held.

'Abd-al-Shafi described the expropriation decisions on Jerusalem adopted by the Israeli Government as a hostile act, clear and explicit disregard of UN resolutions, and flagrant action against the concept of peace. This makes it incumbent upon us to unite to confront this challenge and onslaught.

'Abd-al-Shafi called on the Security Council to adopt a clear resolution condemning Israeli practices and considering them, unambiguously, Israeli aggression. He added that if the United States uses the veto, it must bear the responsibility for this position.

He alluded to the need for the convergence of Palestinian factions and the establishment of a national emergency leadership to confront the challenges. He said: "We are continuing with the efforts to close the Palestinian ranks and unite words in an attempt to achieve a unified Palestinian position."

On the possibility of nominating himself in the elections, 'Abd-al-Shafi said that it is premature to talk about elections and that what has been stipulated in the Oslo accord about elections is a violation of the Palestinians' right to self-determination. Moreover, there are problems that we do not know at what time they will be overcome.

He described the situation in the Gaza Strip as very bad and requiring a great deal of work and effort to address. He added that the most important issue facing us today is the unification of Palestinian political forces.

Police Raid Mosques for Inflammatory Material

TA1705103895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Police raided five mosques in Gaza this morning and carried out searches for inflammatory material.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the police tore Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] placards and slogans from the walls in some of the mosques.

General Ghazi Jabali, Gaza's police commander, last week issued an order banning provocative actions in mosques.

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Hamas Spokesman Warns of Possible 'Civil War'

MM1605153895 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 15 May 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Hamas Spokesman in Jordan Warns of Civil War in Gaza"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — A senior Hamas official has warned of the eruption at any time of a civil war in the occupied territories as a result of "the Palestinian Authority's provocations against those opposed to the Oslo agreement." Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas in Jordan, said that no one can claim to be capable of controlling all his elements at all times. He stressed that Hamas refuses to participate in the Palestinian elections, because they are one of the Oslo agreement's mechanisms. He pointed out that the movement has abandoned the idea of establishing a political party to represent it. What is happening on the ground does not encourage any democratic action. Ghawshah, who was speaking at a small meeting at the Jordanian Studies Center in Amman, said that Hamas' slogan is "let Oslo proceed, let the resistance also proceed, and let us see which is more useful." Because a group of Palestinians are optimistic about the Oslo agreement, so this group is entitled to be given the opportunity to discover the truth.

He said that "attempts are currently being made to create a state of confrontation between the two parties to the Oslo agreement and the resistance through the two recent operations, namely the Shaykh Radwan operation and the arrest campaign and formal trials. We believe that the claim that resistance operations are obstructing the Oslo course are designed to justify the arrests and the decision to disarm [the opposition]. For our part, we are trying to absorb the provocations against Hamas and the [Islamic] Jihad. We warn our young men not to react emotionally, and we urge them to be patient." Ghawshah stressed that the arrests and the trials are conducted in the small hours of the morning, and in a provocative manner. "Not all members of the police and the judiciary agree with what is happening." He said at the meeting, which was attended by a small number of people, that the Oslo course is in a critical situation because of the shortcomings and concessions in the stipulations of the agreement which the Palestinian people do not accept. This is in addition to the ambiguity which is making all issues unclear and difficult to discuss and causing the agreement to lose its supporters. It is also because of the people's opposition to the Jordanian track and the deadlock on the Syrian track.

Ghawshah said that the Zionist entity, despite its might and progress, suffers from a weak point through which the Islamic resistance is striking at it, namely the fact that it cannot provide security for its citizens. He added: As a result of this, a balance has been achieved between our forces and the enemy's. Thus we will not abandon the jihad. We have passed the stage at which the enemy can launch strikes of radical effect against us.

On Jordanian-Palestinian relations the Hamas spokesman said: "We are unionists, and the river does not separate us, neither now nor before. The decision to sever links [with the West Bank] is an interim measure which we believe will not continue. The Palestinian identity is entitled to emerge, and so is the Jordanian identity. But in the long term we are looking for the Islamic identity, which is broader and reflects the highest degree of unity."

Meanwhile, Hamas yesterday condemned a bill that is being discussed by the U.S. Senate, which could result in moving the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. It said that the transfer, if it takes place, would harm U.S. interests. A statement faxed to an international news agency said that Hamas "condemns this U.S. plan, which is hostile toward all Arabs and Muslims."

It also said that the movement "views with extreme concern this hostile U.S. orientation vis-a-vis imposing the Zionist status quo policy in occupied Jerusalem." Hamas stressed in the statement that "the U.S. Administration's and the Republican Party's insistence on maintaining their policies, which are biased toward the Zionist entity, will lead to the arousing and kindling of feelings of hostility, anger, and indignation among all Arabs and Muslims in the world against the United States, and will result in substantial harm to the interests of the United States and its people."

Police Issue Closure Order for AL-WATAN

TA1605164595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Imad al-Faluji, one of the editors of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] organ AL-WATAN, was brought to the Gaza police, given an order for the paper's three-month closure, and subsequently released. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem adds that it was made clear to al-Faluji that another AL-WATAN editor, Ghazi Hamad, is wanted by the Palestinian police.

Hamas Warns PA After Arrest of Editor

TA1605084895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has issued a warning to the Palestinian

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Authority [PA] against the background of the arrest of Sayyid Abu-Musamih, editor of the AL-WATAN newspaper, and the closure of the paper.

A leaflet distributed by Hamas in the Gaza Strip states that these are acts of treason. The leaflet urges the PA to do some soul-searching.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem notes that in the leaflet, Hamas reiterates it will continue the attacks against Israel everywhere.

Gaza Police Arrest 10 More Hamas Members

NC1605173295 Paris AFP in English 1518 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, May 16 (AFP) — Palestinian police arrested 10 militants of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) on Tuesday [16 May], raising to 20 the number detained in the last 48 hours, the group said.

Police swooped before dawn in Gaza City in a continuing crackdown on the Moslem fundamentalists.

Hamas spokesman Mahmud al-Zahhar was questioned for several hours during the day before being released. He refused to comment.

One of the founders and top leaders of the movement, Shaykh Muhammad Sham'ah, was arrested Monday along with nine other activists. [passage omitted]

Islamic Jihad's al-Shami Calls For Dialogue With PA

TA1605163995 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 14 May 95 pp 1, 19

[Report by AL-QUDS special correspondent and QUDS PRESS]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza — The Palestinian police released Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, a leader of the Islamic Jihad, two nights ago. He was arrested on 24 January following the Bet Lid operation which was carried out by two Islamic Jihad members.

Shaykh al-Shami said that his release came about in order to promote the dialogue between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and the opposition in a bid to reach an agreement that will serve the Palestinian people. He added: "I am neither against the PA, nor do I act against it. The PA knows that I am a peaceful opponent of its political approach."

Shaykh al-Shami stressed that no conditions were set for his release. He expressed his readiness to participate in enhancing the channels of dialogue and reinforcing its principles.

In an interview with QUDS PRESS, Shaykh al-Shami said: "The PA released me at 0100 on Saturday [13 May]. I am known as a man who speaks about political reality and who supports Palestinian dialogue in order to spare the Palestinian people any manifestations of pain and grief. The PA is aware of my stance. Moreover, I am not against the PA, nor do I basically act against it. The PA knows that I am a peaceful opponent of its political approach, and there is no need for me to sign any pledges."

He added: "I believe that my release came about in order to promote the dialogue between the PA and the Palestinian factions and in a bid to reach an agreement that will serve the Palestinian people. I have no information at all about any agreement. All that I have heard through the media is that there were some meetings between the Islamic Jihad and some factions with the PA, but I have no information about an agreement with the PA."

Al-Shami said: "I had a feeling that the Palestinian arena was witnessing immense tension and disarray. Therefore, I sent a letter to President Yasir 'Arafat in order to safeguard our Palestinian people and avoid sliding into the arena of conflict. I can appeal to the Palestinian street to help establish an Islamic-national trend that would promote and consolidate the dialogue."

He added: "No conditions were set for my release. I had no prior knowledge that dialogue committees had been set up, but I have no objection whatsoever to help enhance and reinforce the channels of dialogue, if they do exist."

Al-Shami stressed that if he is asked to participate in the ongoing dialogue, he will do so. He added: "I am ready to participate."

He emphasized that dialogue is the constructive and strong step required amid this difficult reality and the pressures being exerted on our people and the PA for the sake of emerging from this dangerous impasse that we are experiencing. Dialogue is the safest means for everyone, because the opposite of dialogue is conflict, and we forbid conflict in the Palestinian arena.

Shaykh al-Shami explained that agreement is extremely necessary and required, but that the terms of this agreement must be reached through serious dialogue. The agreement should observe the interests of the people and the Palestinian cause and the ideas and principles of every faction and movement. He said: "I am pushing toward this end, but I have no knowledge of an agreement between Islamic Jihad and the PA."

He added: "I did not undergo torture or interrogation. In the first period, I was held in the Gaza central prison

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for two and a half months, until 9 April. Then I was transferred to Ansar-2."

Shaykh al-Shami added: "During my detention I did not meet with President Yasir 'Arafat. I would have liked to meet with him, but this did not happen. I expressed a desire to meet with him."

Shaykh al-Shami said: "In order to avoid bloodshed, the Palestinian reality dictates that each Palestinian reassess his calculations. I am convinced that reality or political action alone do not lead to the required results and that all means should be used in addition to political action. The problem is that if other means are used, this could exacerbate the conflict in the Palestinian street. Out of concern for this reality, I prefer that we reconsider the other means."

Shaykh al-Shami added: "The PA and the opposition should realize the dangerous predicament in which they have fallen following the signing of the Oslo accord. They should endeavor to establish joint channels of action that safeguard the Palestinian reality and the Palestinian people's rights so that the Palestinian people will be spared further pain and grief. They must also endeavor to reinforce the basis of dialogue in a bid to reach an agreement that secures the interests of everyone."

Clarifies Recent Statement on PA

JN1605183595 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1652 GMT 16 May 95

[Press statement by Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement, "on the unjustifiable media fuss over his recent statements"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the most gracious, most merciful.

News agencies have generated a media fuss when they misinterpreted political statements I have made. They depicted me as somebody who has resigned himself to the agreement concluded between the PLO and the Zionist enemy. What I meant to say is that the Palestinian Authority [PA] produced by the Oslo accord has become part of the Palestinian state of affairs. When I underlined the need for dialogue, I meant to spare our people the specter of infighting. I did not have in mind the attainment of an understanding on the Oslo accord, which is unacceptable to our people and their mujahid vanguards, including the Islamic Jihad Movement, of whose affiliation I am proud. I consider ridiculous any talk of splits or differences in the movement over the position on the Oslo accord, the Authority, and other strategic issues. For this messianic movement cannot become splintered, nor can it go back on its objectives and constants, chief among which is continuing the jihad until the liberation of all of Palestine.

Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami added: I would like to assert that there are no changes in the policies of the Islamic Jihad Movement, particularly with regard to resistance to the Zionist occupation everywhere in Palestine, and to its strategic position, which is opposed to the Oslo accord. Since my release from jail, I have not felt that any of my brothers within the Islamic Jihad Movement embraces a different view or position. Any other interpretation of our position is irrelevant. I can even confirm that such interpretations are meant to foment confusion and differences within the ranks of our people and our messianic and mujahid movement.

Lastly, I urge people to thwart the schemes of the Zionist enemy, which seeks to foment sedition. I support the start of dialogue, or the convening of a field meeting among all parties. I also urge the Authority to release the prisoners affiliated with all factions, to cancel the so-called State Security Court and its verdicts, and to go back on the disarmament of the mujahidin as long as the occupation is maintained, as long as settlements are in place, and as long as Israeli soldiers are in the territories.

[Signed] Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami

*Future of Palestinians in Lebanon Discussed

Overview of Palestinians' Status

95AA0152A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 9-15 Apr 95 pp 15-19, 21

["Investigative Report" by Nada 'Abd-al-Samad]

[FBIS Translated Text] The settlement of Palestinians in Lebanon is a major issue that has been the subject of agreement and disagreement in Lebanon—agreement to reject it and disagreement about the motives for rejecting it. While some people think that the Lebanese rejection of the settlement of the Palestinians is motivated by the fear for the fragile Lebanese formula, some others have raised the slogan of rejecting the settlement of Palestinians in Lebanon or in any other country. In other words, the rejection here does not mean that settlement of the Palestinians in Jordan is acceptable, for example. The only acceptable thing is a return to the provisions of UN Resolution No. 194.

This is the Palestinian view, which Salah Salah, representative of the PLO's political leadership in Lebanon, has expressed to AL-MAJALLAH. Summing up the Lebanese position to AL-MAJALLAH, Lebanese Labor Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin said: "The talk about settling the Palestinians in Lebanon does not concern us

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in any way. We say that the Palestinians must return to Palestine, as we are unable to absorb or settle anyone." In the past, Minister al-Amin was authorized by the government to negotiate with the Palestinians regarding their civil rights in Lebanon. Now he is a member of a ministerial committee recently set up to discuss these rights and find a solution to the problem of Palestinians displaced by the war in Lebanon.

The fact remains, however, that under the terms of the Oslo agreement, the refugees' issue would come up for discussion at the beginning of 1996. In other words, it has been assumed that the position on the refugees' issue would become clear within the first three years of the five years that have been set for implementing the Oslo agreement. Still, this fact has not concealed another fact: serious efforts are being made to solve the refugees' problem based on the impossibility of implementing UN Resolution No. 194 concerning the Palestinians' right to return home. The successive meetings held by the multilateral negotiations' working group on the refugees' issue are a manifestation of these efforts. It is known that Lebanon is not participating in these negotiations. It has maintained a common position with Syria not to participate in the multilateral negotiations until progress has been made in the bilateral negotiations.

The question being asked here is: Will Lebanon succeed in preventing any of the estimated 320,000 Palestinians from settling in Lebanon? Is it true that Lebanon has been seriously advocating this view with the parties concerned?

The first question has brought two answers: The first says yes, and this has already been made clear. The second says that Lebanon will not be able to prevent the settlement of a number of Palestinians. The officials who say this prefer not to be quoted.

The official Lebanese position is to avoid raising this issue because it causes internal divisions, not about the principle of rejecting the settlement of Palestinians but about the way in which this policy should be carried out. Some people in Lebanon believe that the presence of the Palestinians in Lebanon has created demographic, economic, social, and sectarian disorders.

Following its resolution to partition Palestine, the United Nations has tried to deal with the refugees' problem. On 11 December 1948, the UN General Assembly passed Resolution No. 194 concerning the refugees. The 11th paragraph of this resolution states: "The UN General Assembly resolves that it is necessary to allow the return, as soon as possible, of the refugees who wish to return to their homes and live in peace with their neighbors, and to pay compensation for property to those who decide not to return to their homes and to every missing or wounded person whenever it would be necessary, according to the principles of international law and justice, for the governments or the responsible authorities to pay compensation for such loss or injury."

The resolution has not been implemented, but several attempts have been made to raise the issue of settling the Palestinians. Salah Salah said that in 1951 an attempt was made in Lebanon to transfer 50,000 to 75,000 Palestinians out of 150,000 to Libya, which had agreed to settle them in the al-Jabal al-Akhdar area. Salah added that a Palestinian-Lebanese committee was formed to survey the area. Those who foiled the plan were the Palestinians themselves, he said. Today, several decades later, the problem still exists, but the social conditions have worsened. A report by the multilateral negotiations' committee on the refugees says that the situation of the Palestinians in Lebanon is the worst in the whole area due to the economic crisis caused by the Lebanese war, the Lebanese political situation, and the sensitivity of the issue. According to UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] reports, there is 40 percent unemployment among the Palestinians in Lebanon, and they are not granted the same rights as Palestinians living in Jordan and Syria because of the internal political situation in Lebanon and the view that if given what they want in Lebanon, the Palestinians will melt into Lebanese society and refuse to leave the country later.

According to this report by the multilateral negotiations' committee on refugees, a copy of which AL-MAJALLAH obtained, the committee's delegation that visited Lebanon, during a tour in the region, sensed that there is a tendency eventually to remove the Palestinian camps; that is, not to settle any Palestinians in Lebanon. The UNRWA has prevented the rehabilitation of three camps that were totally destroyed in the war. The UNRWA has permitted the restoration, on a minimum scale, of the camps damaged but not totally destroyed in the fighting.

According to information received by AL-MAJALLAH from diplomatic sources in Beirut, Lebanon will have to face the reality of settling the Palestinians in it. More than 330,000 refugees currently live in Lebanon. Under the best circumstances, it might be possible to ensure that 150,000 of them leave, but Lebanon will find itself compelled to absorb at least 200,000 of them.

This is not a problem just for Lebanon or just for the Palestinians in Lebanon. It is a problem affecting more than 3 million Palestinians in the diaspora. No one knows what will happen to them.

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Palestinians Registered With UNRWA

COUNTRY	IN CAMPS	OUTSIDE CAMPS	TOTAL
Jordan	244,026	949,513	1,193,539 (a)
The West Bank	129,727	374,343	504,070 (b)
Gaza	350,620	292,980	643,600
Lebanon	175,426	162,864	338,290
Syria	91,476	235,812	327,288 (c)
Total all Countries	991,275	2,015,512	3,006,787

(a) The total includes 482,082 refugees who moved out of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

(b) The total includes 7,087 refugees who moved out of the Gaza Strip.

(c) The total includes 32,236 refugees who moved out in 1976.

338,290 Refugees Registered in Lebanon

AREA	CAMPS	IN CAMPS		OUTSIDE CAMPS	TOTAL
Beirut	Mar Ilyas	638		42,128	42,766
The Jabal [Jabal Lubnan]	Burj al-Barajinah	13,424	24,020	45,741	69,761
	Dubayyah	3,640			
	Shatila	6,956			
Sidon	'Ayn al-Hulwah	36,420	40,159	40,533	80,692
	al-Miyyah Wa al-Miyyah	3,739			
Tyre	al-Buss	7,949	46,033	39,729	85,772
	al-Rashidiyah	22,156			
	Burj al-Shamali	15,938			
Tripoli	Nahr al-Barid	24,432	37,453	8,227	45,680
	al-Baddawi	73,021			
al-Biqa'	Wavell	6,661		6,958	13,619

In addition, 15,131 Palestinians have moved out of al-Dikwanah, Jisr al-Basha, and al-Nabatiyah camps and now live in other camps, and 15,131 [figures as published] have moved out of the same camps and now live outside the camps altogether. Thus, the total number of Palestinians living in the camps is 170, 705 and outside the camps is 183,316.

PLO Official Salah Salah Comments

95AA0152B London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 9-15 Apr 95 pp 16-17

[Interview with Salah Salah, representative of the PLO's political leadership in Lebanon, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—first three paragraphs are AL-MAJALLAH introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Salah Salah has submitted several memoranda on behalf of the PLO to the Lebanese

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Government concerning the civil rights of the Palestinians in Lebanon. He said, "Resolution 194 consisted of two parts. The first part gave the Palestinians the right to return home. The second part provided for compensation to those who did not want to return. Efforts are currently being made to implement the second part. Since there will be no return, they are talking now about possible places to settle the Palestinians. The most plausible idea is to settle the Palestinians wherever they live in Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and other states. The exception being considered is Lebanon, because it is believed that the Palestinian presence in Lebanon upsets the structure of society. Therefore efforts must be made to get the Palestinians out. Various alternatives have been proposed in this regard."

Asked what are these alternatives, Salah said: "One of them is Iraq. A delegation of archbishops went to negotiate the possibility of settling the Palestinians living in Lebanon in the desert in southern Iraq. If an agreement is reached, Washington would seek to lift the blockade on Iraq."

Furthermore, there were reports that the official responsible for Middle Eastern affairs on the U.S. National Security Council has held contacts with representatives of Arab states in Washington to get their views about transferring a number of Palestinians living in Lebanon. The U.S. secretary of state raised this issue with at least two Arab states neighboring Israel during his visits.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Do you mean Syria and Jordan?

[Salah] I prefer not to mention names, but I would like to say that one state responded that it is too early to discuss this issue now, and the discussion stopped.

[AL-MAJALLAH] You mentioned Iraq. Have talks been held with other states?

[Salah] We have information that talks are being held with some European states and Canada to transfer a number of Palestinians living in Lebanon. It seems that Canada is prepared to receive some Palestinians as part of a comprehensive solution.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Is there an agreement on the number of Palestinians that could go to Canada?

[Salah] No numbers were discussed. These talks, however, have coincided with a "blockade" being imposed on the Palestinians in Lebanon to force them to emigrate in an attempt to reduce their number and thus curtail the problem in Lebanon.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Are there statistics on the number of Palestinians who have emigrated in the past?

[Salah] About 100,000 Palestinians have emigrated since 1982. Approximately half of them emigrated after 1990. Some statistics even show that 75,000 Palestinians emigrated from Lebanon after 1990.

[AL-MAJALLAH] To what do you attribute this?

[Salah] Since the Madrid Conference, the refugee issue has become political. There was a theory that an agreement would be reached to tackle this issue within an international framework. This assumption was what prompted the Lebanese Government to suspend the talks it began with us regarding the civil rights of the Palestinians in Lebanon. This conviction increased after the Oslo Agreement. Our talks with the Lebanese Government about the civil rights of the Palestinians reached the point where the government was ready to grant the Palestinians in Lebanon their full rights, with the exception of citizenship, the right to vote, and the right to occupy public posts. This took place after we agreed on collecting weapons in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon within the framework of the government's decision to dissolve the militias and collect the weapons. The Lebanese Government felt that it should give the Palestinians something in return, particularly some rights to improve their conditions. The second time this issue came up for discussion was after Rafiq al-Hariri formed the present government. Prime Minister al-Hariri expressed readiness, enthusiasm, and willingness to deal with the issue, but later the government retreated from its promise following local and regional intervention.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Did talk about the al-Quray'ah plan to build housing for displaced Palestinians in Lebanon, which stirred up a Lebanese campaign against it since the plan was considered the prelude to the settlement of the Palestinians, come to an end?

[Salah] By the campaign against the al-Quray'ah plan I wish to say that we do not want the Palestinians in Lebanon and we are not interested in providing housing for them or improving their living conditions in an attempt to keep them in a state in which they will want to emigrate and leave.

Archbishop al-Ra'i on Settlement

95AA0152C London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 9-15 Apr 95 pp 18-19

[Interview with Archbishop Antoine Bisharah al-Ra'i, head of the Catholic Information Center, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given — first two paragraphs are AL-MAJALLAH introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJALLAH met with Antoine Bisharah al-Ra'i, head of the Catholic Information Center who has held the Palestinians responsible for the successive crises in Lebanon since 1969. Archbishop al-Ra'i said that considering how matters are developing

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in Lebanon and how the Israeli-Palestinian and Israeli-Arab negotiations are progressing, settling the Palestinians in Lebanon has become a real danger. This danger is evident in the fact that the agreement Chairman Yasir 'Arafat signed with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on 13 September 1993 in Washington did not mention anything regarding the right of the Palestinian refugees to return to their land and country, particularly the displaced among them. Furthermore, the Arab states, which shoulder the responsibility for their displacement, have not shown interest in their fate or the fate of their future generations, although they possess vast territories. Most of these countries have refused to receive them. Because of the obstacles facing the Gaza-Jericho agreement and the deterioration in relations among the various Palestinian groups and between most of them and Chairman 'Arafat, the danger of settling Palestinians in the countries where they live outside Palestine is increasing. The situation of the Palestinians in Lebanon does not worry them like it does other Palestinians. Any delay in their return to their country will increase their desire to settle or stay in Lebanon for the same reasons that made them seek refuge in Lebanon, which are:

1. Lebanon's proximity to Palestine, and hence the possibility of launching raids along the Israeli border

2. The big similarity in climate and geography
3. The political, intellectual, and economic freedom in Lebanon
4. The other Arab states' refusal to receive them
5. The possibility of bringing weapons into the camps and turning these camps into training grounds for war and attacks

[AL-MAJALLAH] Will the settlement of the Palestinians in Lebanon upset the sectarian balance? What are its effects on the Lebanese formula?

[Al-Ra'i] Settling Palestinians in Lebanon will upset the Islamic-Christian sectarian balance. This cannot be tolerated by the Lebanese society, which is politically based on sectarian balance. This balance can easily be upset. If one party gains advantage over the other, disorder will happen and the consequences will be serious. Lebanon is 10,451 square km. Its population is 3.5 million people. It has the highest population concentration in the region. The existing political equation in Lebanon is 50-50 between the Christians and the Muslims. They are represented in the government and the administration on this basis. The vast majority of the Palestinians in Lebanon are Muslims. At the beginning of the Lebanese war, there were more than 500,000 Palestinians in Lebanon. They have created demographic, economic, social, and sectarian disorder.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What would happen if the Palestinians were given Lebanese citizenship and some of them were given the right to live in Lebanon?

[Al-Ra'i] If the Palestinians were granted Lebanese citizenship, they would be settled in Lebanon. This would undermine the sectarian balance and the political formula in the country. Contrary to all the neighboring Arab states and Israel, this formula has allowed Lebanon to enjoy a free, democratic, and parliamentary system and not a dictatorial, totalitarian, and military system. This formula allowed all the religions and sects forming the fiber of this society to be represented in the government and administration. This system is not purely Muslim or purely Jewish. It is based on religious and cultural diversity rather than on just Islamic, Arab, and Hebrew philosophies. It is a civil system rather than a religious system in the sense that legislation in it is not the Islamic shari'ah or the Jewish religious law, and the state's religion in it is not Islam or Judaism. Lebanon completely separates religion and state but respects all religions and gives them the right to be represented proportionately in the government and the administration. This formula recognizes these religions' legislative, judicial, and administrative independence in civic, family, and religious matters within the framework of the Constitution, public order, and the public welfare. If the Palestinians were given the right to reside in Lebanon—which is undoubtedly a humanitarian matter—this would be the prelude to settlement. The Lebanese rose up against a plan sponsored by Minister Walid Junblatt last year to house Palestinians in al-Qurayyah (between Sidon and al-Shuf). The Lebanese rejected this plan, not because of its humanitarian and social significance but because they viewed it as a political deal and as the prelude to settling them in Lebanon. They thought that the timing was regionally not suitable, as it anticipated the multilateral negotiations. They also thought that it would contribute to the establishment of an accomplished fact in Lebanon and would achieve a solution to the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon that would give satisfaction to Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian authority that signed the Gaza-Jericho agreement without considering the problem of the refugees.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What is the alternative? Do you regard the settlement of the Palestinians as a prelude to new war that would result in settling the Palestinians and the emigration of the Christians?

[Al-Ra'i] Lebanon is not required to find alternatives. I will answer by quoting from the unified working paper prepared by the Christian-Islamic Dialogue Committee on 6 January 1995. The contents of this working paper have been approved by the Lebanese spiritual and official leaders. It said: "Urge the Arab and international

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communities to find a solution to the suffering of the Palestinian refugees, within the framework of the right to return home established under the terms of UN Resolution No. 194, and foil any attempt to overstep this right by settling them in Lebanon. Settlement is an attempt to evade a usurped Palestinian right by violating a sacred Lebanese right. It is thus a dual plot against the Lebanese and the Palestinian people that must be resisted and foiled with complete power, resolution, and determination."

Settlement is a prelude to new wars for many reasons. It imposes the Palestinians on an objecting Lebanese society. It is an attempt to solve the Palestinian problem at the expense of Lebanon and the Lebanese people, just as the problem of Israel and the Jews was solved in 1948 at the expense of Palestine and the Palestinians. This had caused Palestinian elements hostile to Israel to come to Lebanon and try, by force of arms, to regain their land, leading to Israeli attacks against Lebanon and its people. Settlement incorporates into the Lebanese society elements hostile to it because of their deprivation and oppression. These elements will ask to bring in heavy and light weapons to resume the military training of new generations of fedayeen. They will educate them in the spirit of the revolution and vengeance and will ask for immunity for them. The problem then will not be Palestinian-Christian but Palestinian-Lebanese. Settling the Palestinians in Lebanon will not necessarily mean that the Christians will leave the country. As I have said, all the Lebanese people—Muslims and Christians—reject the settlement of the Palestinians, as stated in the national accord document. The preamble to the Constitution says: "No fragmentation, no partition, and no settlement." This means that settlement, like fragmentation and partition, threatens and even destroys the Lebanese entity.

Who can forget the successive Lebanese Government crises since 1969 because of the Palestinians? Who can forget how the prime minister then submitted his resignation to the president as a gesture of solidarity with the fedayeen who were killed in one of their battles against the Lebanese internal security forces? Who can forget the president's statement on 31 May 1969 when he said "yes to solidarity with the Palestinian cause, but must we sacrifice Lebanon's independence?" Who can forget the huge Arab support for the prime minister's position and the big demonstrations of hundreds of thousands of people against the Lebanese authority and the Lebanese Army in Baghdad, Syria, and other Arab states? These facts are recorded in the books of wars in Lebanon. Who can forget how the Islamic leadership in Lebanon announced that "the Palestinians are the Muslims' army?" Who can forget how Chairman Yasir 'Arafat used to participate in the 'Aramun Islamic summits in 1969 with the Libyan prime minister and the Syrian foreign minister? Who can forget how the Progressive Socialist-Palestinian alliance was established? Who can forget that Israel's invasions of Lebanon in 1976 and 1978, which turned into an occupation despite the UN Security Council's Resolutions 425, 509, and 520, were caused by the Palestinian military attacks from Lebanese territory against Israel? The Christians are not against the Palestinians or against their cause. The church has declared its solidarity with them and defended their right, dignity, and cause since 1948, from the time of Patriarch Antun 'Aridah until the present Patriarch Cardinal Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sufayr, and from the time of Pope Benedictus XV in 1919 when the idea to establish a Jewish state began with the Balfour Declaration, until Pope John Paul II. The essence of these positions is that there can be no peace in the Middle East unless a just solution to the Palestinian issue is achieved.

Text of Report on Refugees

95AA0152D London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
9-15 Apr 95 p 19

[Unattributed report on the report prepared by the "multilateral negotiations' working group on refugees"; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJALLAH has obtained a copy of the report prepared by the multilateral negotiations' working group on refugees following its tour of the countries concerned, except Syria. The report contained the following:

"The Lebanese Government informed the delegation that the Palestinian problem is a joint responsibility of the states in the area and the international community. Lebanon cannot integrate the Palestinians in its society because of its sensitive political situation."

The report also states that the delegation received a Lebanese proposal to solve the question of Palestinian presence and to prevent their settlement in Lebanon. The proposal contained four points:

1. Lebanon can allow the Palestinians who came from the occupied territories to leave for these territories.

2. Lebanon can allow the Palestinians to leave for states in the area based on the principle of family reunions.
3. Lebanon can allow Palestinians to leave for countries that open their immigration doors to them.
4. Lebanon can allow Palestinians to depart for Gulf states that require manpower and give priority to Palestinians

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Lebanon regarded this proposal as serious, and the committee promised to study it and discuss its practical implications.

UNRWA Lebanon Director Comments

95AA0152E London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 9-15 Apr 95 p 21

[Interview with UNRWA Lebanon Director Lionel Brisson by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given — first paragraph is AL-MAJALLAH introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJALLAH asked a number of questions to Lionel Brisson, director of UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] in Lebanon, about attempts to make life harder for the refugees. He said: "It is not true that our organization has reduced its services and budget to make life harder for the Palestinians and subsequently make them emigrate from Lebanon. Our budget does not increase by the same proportion as prices here, particularly in medical services."

[AL-MAJALLAH] How does the talk about a budget reduction relate to Lebanon's position of rejecting the settlement of Palestinians?

[Brisson] We are a humanitarian organization that has nothing to do with politics. We do humanitarian work. We have nothing to do with what is called a plot by any "ghost" against the Palestinians. Perhaps there are fears about the fate of UNRWA. These fears might be valid, especially since the continued existence of this organization depends on solving the refugees' problem. There is now a peace process which must be evaluated. This process, at some stage, should solve the problem of the refugees. Under the terms of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, the two sides should begin discussing this issue at the beginning of next year and find a solution to it within three years.

[AL-MAJALLAH] The multilateral negotiations' working group has visited you in Beirut. What was the purpose of the visit? Are there any practical proposals?

[Brisson] We are not a party to these negotiations. We tried to explain the living conditions of the Palestinians in Lebanon. The delegation members also met with government officials to learn their views.

[AL-MAJALLAH] The problem of displaced Palestinians in some areas has not been resolved. The attempts to solve their problem have caused a storm and brought to the surface Lebanese positions opposed to the settlement of the Palestinians in Lebanon.

[Brisson] I repeat that we have nothing to do with these political issues. From the humanitarian point of view, there are more than 6,000 displaced Palestinian families currently living in very bad housing conditions. We are responsible for providing alternatives, but we are not responsible for providing housing. This is the government's responsibility. Therefore, I asked the Lebanese Government to help us solve this problem by allowing us either to rehabilitate the camps or build houses in some camps.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Does this include the Beirut camps?

[Brisson] Yes. We thought about returning the displaced Palestinians to their former homes. I think the government intends to transfer these camps from the capital as part of a plan to reorganize the city. So Beirut is not part of the discussion. Hence, the al-Quray'ah idea was suggested as a place to build houses for the displaced Palestinians. For internal Lebanese reasons, this plan faced strong opposition and was shelved.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Do you regard the al-Quray'ah plan as frozen?

[Brisson] A ministerial committee has been formed. This committee has not met, and the plan has apparently been frozen.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Do you have an idea where the Palestinians will be moved?

[Brisson] I have no information. We have nothing to do with it because it is a political matter. The Lebanese Government will resolve it with the parties concerned.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Your international organization has been accused of helping in the settlement of the Palestinians when it introduced a new registration card.

[Brisson] Renewing the registration cards of the Palestinians is not something new. The issue was linked to the peace process, and this is wrong.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Have the new cards revealed the number of Palestinians in Lebanon?

[Brisson] About 330,000. Some 80 percent of registered Palestinians have received their cards.

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Algeria

FIS Leader Haddam Denies AIS-GIA Split

MM1605121195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 May 95 p 4

[Report on interview with Anouar Haddam, head of the Islamic Salvation Front's Parliamentary Mission Abroad, by Muhammad Sadiq on 13 May in Washington]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Anouar Haddam, head of the Parliamentary Mission of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] Abroad, has stated that the rumors about disagreement or conflict between the Islamic Salvation Army [AIS] and the Armed Islamic Group [GIA] are mere illusions for "the mujahidin have the same war and the same peace, and they are all from the womb of FIS. If there are any differences they are differences of opinion. They are all working for a return to the people's choice which is the FIS choice."

In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Washington yesterday in reaction to reports about differences, including a recent report attributed to the GIA warning and giving the FIS leaders abroad, including Haddam, one month to join it, Haddam said: "We would like to draw attention to the fact that today (yesterday), 13 May 1995, marked the first anniversary of the unification of the major armed jihad factions under the banner of the GIA. We therefore emphasize that the claims about disagreement or a split are mere lies meant to divert the world public opinion from support for the Algerian just cause."

He added: "If there is disagreement, or rather differences, they are not of that magnitude. As known, all the mujahidin are from the FIS womb. It was a measure of the goodwill of the FIS and its members and of the Islamists that when they joined the election process they really did not have any national military organization. But after the military coup and after the military, or rather the extremist wing of the military represented by five generals, rejected every political solution and rejected continuation of the election process, the FIS leadership, represented at the time by the Provisional National Executive Bureau, asked the members of the public to organize themselves in the cities and villages to resist the military coup. The national leadership at home (the National Bureau) undertook the task of unifying the jihad ranks. The first phase of the unification of the major jihad factions was completed last year, on 13 May 1994, with the understanding that they would continue their efforts for the unification of all jihad under one banner. It is a question of unity not of alliance."

He reaffirmed that "the current plurality of opinion represented by the GIA and the AIS is not the origin but rather the result of the reality. We never thought that there would still be some in the Army who would reject the people's right to choose. So, to sum it up, the division is not the origin but the result of certain circumstances."

Answering the claims that what is going on between the AIS and the GIA is similar to what went on and is still going on between the Afghan factions, Haddam said: "It is wrong to try to draw a parallel with what is happening in Afghanistan. There is no similarity. The two situations are completely different." He added: "In Afghanistan there are numerous parties and as many groupings as there are tribes depending on the existing political and ideological tendencies. In Algeria they are all from the FIS womb and are all working for a return to the people's choice, which is overwhelmingly the FIS choice. The differences are not a result of fanaticism or tribalism but a result of circumstances because there was no national military organization and the people had to organize themselves according to the circumstances. God willing, there will soon be news of unification of the GIA and the AIS. Let me also stress the fact that the Algerians by nature reject division and advocates of division. The two jihad frameworks have no choice other than unity."

Haddam added: "I want to explain a fundamental point, which is that, most regrettably, all the reports about what is said or claimed about splits come from bulletins abroad. I say, and we bear the responsibility, that they (the bulletins) do not reflect what goes on at home. There are no and there cannot possibly be armed clashes between the AIS and the GIA. Some European reporters have gone to Algeria and saw for themselves the opposite in the field. They saw full military coordination." [passage omitted]

Haddam also said: "To further explain and eliminate suspicion, we say that the sources of the rumors are bulletins outside Algeria not in Algeria. For example, where the GIA is concerned, EL ETESAM and EL RAYAH, the two bulletins issued in Algeria, have not once mentioned disagreement or conflict. The sedition comes from abroad. Some time ago the GIA issued a statement dissociating itself from the EL ANSAR bulletin, which was said to represent the GIA. That is a lie because it does not express the views of the GIA.

Most regrettably, there is another group working in the context of EL TABSERAH, said to be close to the AIS. It also made the same slip and began answering EL ANSAR, consequently sinking to its level. Then the press picked this up, saying that the AIS said so and so

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and the GIA said so and so, and so on and so forth.... Both are innocent of these claims. The recent statement was in that context."

Asked if the GIA has difficult or impossible conditions preventing unification, Haddam said: "That is an important question and, frankly, an important issue and we must talk about it. World public opinion now firmly believes that the GIA is against FIS, but the truth is exactly the opposite. It was the FIS which, with God's help, made the efforts which resulted in the unification of the major jihad factions within the framework of the GIA. It was the FIS, represented by the Provisional Executive Bureau headed by Abdelrazzak Rejam, which worked for the GIA's unity of ranks. So, how has the GIA become an enemy of the FIS? We here refute these rumors and emphasize that they are all from the FIS womb, and nobody can reject it because whoever rejects the FIS rejects its plan, which means rejecting the Algerian people's choice, and it would no longer be embraced by the people, who are bearing all the sacrifices in the interest of a return to their choice, which is the FIS plan and motto which the GIA cannot abandon. That is why I say that the GIA has no impossible conditions for unification. What has prevented that so far are the circumstances. [passage omitted]

On the size of the GIA's and the AIS's military force, Haddam said: "Frankly, as we talked about that in the past, and to prevent exploitation of what we say, we have been asked to talk about the mujahidin as a whole. Suffice it to say that the major jihad factions united and chose for themselves the emblem of the GIA.

"What happened was that on 13 May they reached agreement under which the mujahidin operating in the context of the FIS, represented by the National Bureau at home, were united with the Islamic State Movement of Said Makhloufi and with the GIA. They were all united within a new framework and chose for themselves the name of the GIA, an accurate phrase which did not mean merger with the GIA. It meant that the three parties were united within a new framework and a new structure not necessarily meaning merger into the GIA." [passage omitted]

Haddam emphasized: "As the Parliamentary Mission and as representatives elected by the Algerian people, bearing a historic responsibility and succession responsibility, we feel that, as elected representatives, we cannot at all support the jihad if there is division. If we felt that any party was beginning to advocate division we would stop supporting the jihad." [passage omitted]

GIA Expected To Deny 'Ultimatum' to FIS Abroad

MM1505135095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 May 95 p 4

[Report by Salah Jamil: "Despite Haddam's Denial of Authenticity of GIA's Threat to FIS Leaders, Algerian FIS Supporters Want GIA To Explain Ultimatum Attributed to It"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — Sources close to the Algerian [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] in London have stated that they expect the leadership of the Armed [Islamic] Group [GIA] to issue a denial of the recent statement attributed to it in which it was said to have given the FIS leaders abroad, including Anouar Haddam, head of its Parliamentary Mission abroad, and Shaykh Rabeh Kebir, chairman of its Executive Committee, one month to join its ranks and to stop making any statements in the name of "jihad" in Algeria.

In statements to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the sources wondered why the GIA has not issued a categorical denial of the statement signed by its Amir Bouabderrahmane Amin date 4 May if it really was a fabrication. They stressed that such threats and attacks "only serve the regime."

That request by the FIS sources came despite the statement made by Haddam to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the day before yesterday denying the authenticity of that statement, which he described as an attempt to silence the free voices supporting jihad abroad.

The new wave in these verbal clashes and, sometimes, armed clashes between members of the [Islamic] Salvation Army [AIS] and others claiming to belong to the GIA have noticeably increased since the election of Madani Merzak as the AIS' "national amir" a few months ago. After his appointment there were reports of a split within the AIS and there was speculation that some AIS leaders were joining the GIA such as Abdelkader Chebouti and Said Makhloufi, who were reported to have opposed the appointment of Merzak as AIS commander on the grounds that the decision was made without their knowledge.

Merzak has clearly left his mark on the strategy of his armed organization, as confirmed by his positions and his statement which can be described as "moderate" in comparison with the GIA statements which reject bargaining in their fight against the regime. [passage omitted]

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TV Journalist Reportedly Kidnapped, Murdered

LD1605211895 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just heard that yet another journalist has been killed in Algeria. (Azzedine Said), an assistant with the state TV channel, ENTV, has been found dead after he was kidnapped by an armed group in an eastern suburb of Algiers. This is what AP announced this evening, quoting reliable sources in Algiers.

Security Forces Kill 17 'Terrorists'

LD1605184095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security forces have announced in a communique that they shot dead 17 terrorists in several parts of the country over the last few days.

Weapons were also recovered during the course of several search operations.

Niger Prime Minister Visits, Meets With Zeroual

LD1605153395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Niger-Algerian cooperation is at the forefront of events. This morning at the presidential office Head of State Liamine Zeroual received Niger Prime Minister Hama Amadou who has been visiting our country since yesterday.

The meeting was also attended by Mr. Mihoub Mihoubi, the president's diplomatic adviser and official spokesman, and Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri.

Following the meeting Mr. Amadou expressed his satisfaction with the talks he held with the head of state. He also expressed his satisfaction on having reached a settlement of the Touareg problem in Niger with the help of Algeria. [Begin Amadou recording in French with superimposed Arabic translation] Our thanks and gratitude from the people of Niger for the continuous efforts by Algeria to solve the problem of the rebellion in Niger. We have talked about the necessary cooperation and ways of bolstering this cooperation between Algeria and Niger. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Sifi, Amadou Comment on Cooperation

LD1605205695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Algeria and Niger have reasserted their willingness and their determination to consolidate and diversify their cooperation, according to a joint communique released on the occasion of the visit to Algiers of Niger Prime Minister Hama Amadou.

Algeria and Niger have highlighted the need for the joint cooperation commission to meet as soon as possible, probably next September. The two countries have also decided to look at ways to establish a bilateral structure for border cooperation.

Before he left Algiers, Prime Minister Amadou told Badia Haddad that he was satisfied:

[Begin Amadou recording] Having signed this draft agreement, I am leaving with a different kind of gratitude to announce it to the people of Niger, and to confirm to them that Algeria and its authorities truly have sincere and friendly feelings for the people of Niger. I came here with the hope I would find friends. I am now leaving, convinced that I have found real friends for Niger. For me this is cause for great satisfaction.

I met President Zeroual this morning, and I can tell you that I am really delighted. I hope that, beyond this particular visit, we shall be able to follow up with cooperation between southern countries, without which I am convinced there is no possible development for Africa. [end recording]

As for Algeria, Prime Minister Sifi has highlighted the need to prepare the future together:

[Begin Sifi recording] Algeria and Niger are linked by history, geography, and their joint destiny. The Algerian side is willing to improve and reinforce cooperation between Algeria and Niger as best it can. I am not talking of ad hoc acts of cooperation here, I am talking of raising the level of cooperation right now and of preparing the future together because of the fact that we share this joint destiny and because, together, we must make a greater impact on the world scene.

This is why I hope ...[pauses] In any case both sides have made arrangements for this cooperation to be a long-term one that will form the basis for a future in which our mutual interests will be furthered and safeguarded. [end recording]

The Niger delegation, led by Prime Minister Amadou, left Algiers late this afternoon.

Egypt

Musa Leaves for Libya, To Deliver Message

NC1705081995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0705 GMT 17 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 May (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo for Libya this

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morning on a short visit during which he will deliver a message from President Husni Mubarak to Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

'Amr Musa stated that the message deals with developments in the Arab situation and current consultations to convene a mini-Arab summit to discuss Israel's measures in Jerusalem.

The foreign minister said that after his visit to Libya, he will travel to Morocco to take part in the contact committee of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which will hold its meetings tomorrow to discuss the situation in Bosnia.

He pointed out that in Morocco, he will meet with Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan prime minister and minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, to discuss efforts to convene a mini-Arab summit.

'Informed Sources' Deny Coolness in Syria Relations

MM1505125295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 May 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Egypt Denies Any Coolness in Relations With Syria"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, informed Egyptian diplomatic sources in Cairo have denied claims that Egyptian-Syrian relations are cool. They said that there was no truth in recent Israeli press reports that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak postponed his scheduled visit [to Syria] last month after his return from his important visit to the United States because of the so-called hard-line positions taken by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in the political negotiations with Israel or because of differences of opinion between the two countries regarding the signing of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT].

The sources emphasized that Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's recent visit to Damascus was made in the course of the continuous coordination between the two countries on the peace process and the NPT, and that Musa did confirm that Egyptian and Syrian views on the issues discussed were close, including their views regarding the Arab position on Israel's confiscation of more land in Jerusalem and the need for Arabs and the international community to force it to rescind that decision.

The sources added that the talks also covered all proposed ideas regarding the Israeli plan for withdrawal from the Golan Heights as well as Syria's preparations for [Syrian Foreign Minister] Faruq al-Shar''s forthcoming visit to Washington. According to the same sources, President Mubarak is expected to visit Damascus in May and the date for the visit is expected to be set after the 'Id al-Adha holiday. It will be a one-day working visit.

Editor Calls U.S. 'Submissive Follower' of Israel

NC1605175195 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 11 May 95 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Jalal Duwaydar: "Too Bad for the Superpower"]

[FBIS Translated Text] I am really very sad for this state of humiliation and degeneration that the United States, the superpower, has reached, so much so that it has become a submissive follower of a group of people who are pioneers in aggression against international legitimacy and the rights of other peoples.

I really feel sorry for the United States, the country that had raised slogans of freedom and equality but, through its support for Israel, has turned into a burden on everything free and legitimate and anything linked to equality and justice.

Yes, the United States is a superpower with strength and wealth but, regrettably, it is completely impotent when it comes to Israel and the Jewish lobby. To the state of the Jews, the United States can only say: I hear and obey!

In front of the whole world the United States is indeed a superpower, but in front of Israel and the Jewish lobby, it shrinks and shrinks until it becomes a helpless nothing.

This sad and regrettable fact appeared stark naked during Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Washington and his talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton. In all arrogance, rudeness, conceit, and aggression, Rabin defied international legitimacy and the principles of law, perpetuating the aggression against Jerusalem and emphasizing that it is Israel's unified capital. Without a sense of shame or a sense of responsibility, he unscrupulously announced in a news conference with Clinton at the headquarters of the Jewish Zionist organization AIPAC [American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee] that Jerusalem is Israel's unified capital. He claimed that rejecting Israel's aggression and confiscation of Arab land is interference in Israel's affairs!

Rabin, under U.S. military, political, and economic protection, disregarded all principles and agreements when he said that Israel has sovereignty over all of Jerusalem and that any condemnation of Israel's conduct is interference in Israel's internal affairs! He completely overlooked his peace agreement with the Palestinians,

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which stipulates that the future of Jerusalem will be decided at the negotiating table. He made these claims to kill the peace process.

What rational or ethical logic can accept this aggressive method, even if it finds its explanation in the domestic election battle?

There is no explanation for this aggressive conduct other than that Israel has decided to turn its back on peace and that it does not intend to proceed with efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement.

What is sad and painful, however, is not these aggressive statements made at the headquarters of AIPAC, the stronghold of the Zionist lobby at the United States. What is worse is the fact that the U.S. Administration, represented by President Clinton, disregarded all values and principles and accepted Rabin's aggressive public statement without saying a single word.

To be fair, I must say that this is not the mistake of Israel, or the United States, or Clinton. It is the mistake of all Arabs and all Muslims. Despite Washington's massive interests with them, they receive only illusion, procrastination, and loss of rights.

What is happening to Arabs and Muslims is a result of differences, weakness, and fragmentation, and these are due to our selfishness, lack of solidarity, and tendency toward conspiracy and aggression against each other.

I say that the problem primarily lies with us, the Arabs, not with America or Israel.

Alas for the superpower that ethically collapsed for the sake of Israel.

Commentary Laments Jerusalem's Present State

NC1605141495 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 16 May 95

[Commentary by Samir 'Abd-al-Tawwab: "Where is Jerusalem?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Where is Jerusalem? This is the question we have posed in the arenas of the region and the rest of the world since before 1947 and 1948. It will continue to be posed until the identity of this great, ancient, holy, and honorable city is clearly and definitely determined, just as it has always been and as it always should be.

Where is Jerusalem? It is in the hearts, the minds, politics, wars, violence, and conflicts. It is in the settlements and in attempts to remove it from its origins and eventually devour it and play with it and with us. It is in the talks between the Palestinians and Israelis, although it is at the bottom of the list and although the persons who signed the agreements for the Israeli side have jumped ahead of the time set for it and almost seized it. There is nothing left to discuss about it, except to accept the fait accompli Israel has forced on us.

Where is Jerusalem? It has been at the UN Security Council for over a quarter of a century. This council and the General Assembly have issued resolutions to protect its reality, past, future, people, and identity. But the council and the assembly have clashed with the Israeli rejection and defiance and with silence and indifference from the big five members. The result was that the Israeli occupation of Jerusalem, most of the West bank, the Syrian Golan Heights, and the Lebanese territories in the south has continued. This is happening when we are supposed to be in a period of peace that should have been marked with a peace-loving and cooperative spirit in accordance with the concept of peace and good neighborliness to proceed toward stability, construction, and development and make up for what we missed during the days of the conflict and wars.

Once again we ask: Where is Jerusalem? It is still at the UN Security Council, where stances, ideas, goals, and intentions differ on it, its reality, its future, and its position within the peace march. In Washington they believe that the UN Security Council is not the place to discuss the issue of Jerusalem. Where then can we discuss this serious matter, which makes the entire march apt to either a real peace or the exact opposite? They talk about an Arab-Islamic coordination on Jerusalem at the UN Security Council. The Arab League secretary general held consultations with President Mubarak on the serious situation facing the honorable holy city. Some suggest the holding of a minisummit or expanded Arab summit, and Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid is flying to Morocco to consult with the chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, King Hassan II, on the shores of the Atlantic.

Hopefully, the minisummit will succeed in what the expanded summit might fail. After all, an expanded summit might stumble even if its quorum is secured. It might fail to convene because of the untreated cracks in Arab relations and, accordingly, Arab policy.

We stand together with the people of Jerusalem and Palestine, all Arabs and Muslims, and honorable friends all over the world and within the United Nations and even within the U.S. Administration itself, where some reasonable people believe that moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem is bound to kill the peace process, although it is these same people who say that the UN Security Council is not the place to discuss the status of the holy city. We all are waiting for the outcome of the vote at the UN Security Council. We are also awaiting the Arab

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summit, mini or expanded. This meeting will of course be held after the situation is clarified at the UN Security Council.

Many believe that the matter is in the hands of Arabs, particularly the Palestinians. This is true. It is clear that the matter is in their hands. They have specific choices that they have to consider thoroughly to draw a specific vision after considering all the circumstances and facts, realities and events, positive and negative aspects, as well as contradictions. They need to hold more consultations and contacts to loosen the Israeli grip on the opinion and decisionmaking centers, particularly since some of these centers are fed up with the Israeli ambitions and intentions that might ruin the spirit of peace and destroy the march that originally sought a just, lasting, and all-embracing peace for us, our neighbors, and the entire Middle East.

Writer Rules Out U.S.-Iran Military Clash

NC1605204795 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 9 May 95 p 9

[Article by Fahmi Huwaydi: "Drums of War Between Washington and Tehran"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The drums of war the United States has beaten for Iran involve a message that needs deliberate reading, especially because the message is pregnant with symbols that need decoding and goals that need analysis and examination.

The beats of these drums reached us clearly when the U.S. President announced an embargo on any trade dealing with Iran at the inauguration of the Jewish Congress in New York on Sunday, 30 April. He justified this measures by two things: That Iran is the primary state that supports and fosters international terrorism and that it is seeking to possess weapons of mass destruction.

The total embargo decision was not the first bullet in the war; it marked the escalation of a war that has mounted in recent years and was further intensified with President Clinton's entry into the White House in 1991, since his administration adopted what was called "the policy of dual containment" of both Iran and Iraq.

An observer can trace more than one sign indicating that escalation this year. However, we will focus on two points:

1. U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry's visit to the Arab region last March, the visit in which he emphasized "the major Iranian threat." He said that Iran had massed chemical weapons and missiles in the Strait of Hormuz and the islands disputed between Iran and the United Arab Emirates. He also said that Iran was developing its nuclear capabilities with Russia's help. It turned out later that those allegations were incorrect. The Saudi defense minister denied that Iran had stacked chemical weapons and missiles in the Strait of Hormuz and the three islands. Officials in Moscow stated that remarks about developing Iran's nuclear program were exaggerated because Iran's nuclear capability was equal to that of 25 other states. They further said that although Moscow was selling Iran a reactor, it was for peaceful purposes and of the same type the United States offered to North Korea as an alternative to its present nuclear weapons program.

2. The strong pressure the United States put on Azerbaijan to call off its contract with Iran to participate in the giant oil "consortium" called "the project of the century." Investments in that project are estimated at between $7 and $8 billion and it is designed to develop the oil industry in three oilfields in Azerbaijan, Iran's northern neighbor.

The story of that contract is very interesting, since the consortium included four giant American oil companies and a number of Western companies (particularly British), in addition to Turkish and Russian oil companies and the Azeri oil company, Sukar. Shares were distributed into quotas favoring the American and Western companies (70 percent). This did not appeal to Russia, which only obtained 10 percent of the consortium shares. Holding the cards that can still influence central Asian republics, Russia put strong pressure on President Heydar Aliyev to obtain a bigger share. Seeking backing from Iran, which he needed in his war against Armenia, Aliyev sold Iran 5 percent of Azerbaijan's share. This annoyed the American companies and angered Turkey, which believes that Iran competes with it to control central Asia.

Paying no attention to the Russian pressure, Aliyev wanted to oblige the Turks. He sold them 5 percent of his country's share and raised the Turkish share to 6.75 percent, which is higher than the Iranian share. This did not appeal to Turkey and the Western parties. A rebellion broke out in the Azerbaijani police against Aliyev. It was understood that the rebellion could not have broken out without a green light from Turkey, backed by the United States. Although Aliyev managed to crush the rebellion, he realized that his position on shares would cause him problems. In an attempt to oblige the Turks and the Americans, he sold another 5 percent of his country's share to Turkey, raising its share to 11.75 percent, and 5 percent to the U.S. company Exxon. But pressures on the Azerbaijani president did not stop. He was told frankly that the main demand of the Turks, Americans, and Western allies was to dismiss Iran from the consortium. After 90 days of battling over shares, he had to surrender. He had no other option

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but to notify Iran officially that his contract with it has been annulled. Iran viewed this as going beyond the red line and threatening its national security. It said that monopolizing oil pumping in the Caspian Sea without the permission of littoral states was illegal, unviable, and impermissible.

The declared U.S. reasons for penalizing Iran have not changed. They are the same reasons announced by President Clinton before the Jewish Congress: Tehran's nuclear program and its support for terrorism. However, if we carefully examine these two excuses, we notice the following:

1. The issue of Iran's nuclear program lacks seriousness. We have just mentioned what Russia has stated in this regard, which is sufficient to indicate that the so-called Iranian nuclear danger is greatly exaggerated. Some Israeli experts support this thesis. They have stated on several occasions that if this danger ever looms on the horizon, it will not happen for another 10 years.

In addition, it is known that Iran was among the first states to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. All its activity in this field are under the control and supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. Several IAEA delegations have visited Tehran and have inspected sites where Iran is presumably conducting activity in this field. The delegations confirmed that Iran is using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Therefore, there is no secrecy whatsoever. The limits of Iran's nuclear capability are not hidden to the concerned parties, which know that all that has been stated in this regard is no more than a tempest in a teapot!

There remains the issue of Iran's support for "international terrorism." This term needs a caveat to remove any ambiguity in which someone might fall. This term specifically means Iran's opposition to the peace process and its moral and material support for the Lebanese and Palestinian resistance against Israel. This "translation" of the term is not our own but is firmly recorded in the various statements by the U.S. Department of State. President Clinton referred to this in his recent speech. The U.S. concept of terrorism is completely identical to the Israeli concept. It differs from our concept of terrorism.

The pivot of the second excuse or accusation is therefore Israel and primarily its security. This brings up the following question: Is it logical for the United States to throw all its weight in defense of Israeli interests?

The answer to this question is in two parts. The first part is that the United States is suffering from two complexes in its modern history different from Europe's complexes. The two complexes governing the U.S. subconscious mind are Vietnam and Iran. Therefore, the U.S. establishment has a hidden feeling that the Islamic revolution in Iran has caused a deep wound to U.S. pride, especially since the detention of U.S. hostages in their embassy in Tehran in the first year of the revolution (1979). This motivates the continuing desire of the United States to take revenge on Iran and settle the account with it.

The second and more important part is that the Israeli influence in the White House has reached an unprecedented level in President Clinton's era so that it is not unlikely that the U.S. Administration will go to the greatest conceivable lengths to secure Israel's interests. [passage omitted]

On the margin of the second part, which concerns Israel's influence on the White House, there emerges the factor of the U.S. President's need for Jewish votes in the coming presidential elections. [passage omitted]

Thus it was greatly significant that President Clinton's announcement of imposing a total economic embargo on Iran and his call to the seven industrial countries to implement this embargo was made at the opening of the International Jewish Congress and in the presence of the symbols of the Zionist "lobby." This implies that the message was primarily meant for the ears of Israel and the Jews, as if Clinton wanted to tell his listeners that they will not find anyone better than him in the White House as Israel's friend, defender of its security and lands, and punisher of its enemies and foes. Another noticeable point is that while the United States is exerting strong pressure to end the Arab boycott of Israel and hence to lift the Arab embargo on commercial dealings with it, Washington has moved to impose a trade embargo on Iran and has called on its allies to follow its example. The lifting and the imposition of the embargoes mean that the U.S. stand primarily serves the Israeli interests.

This scenario raises several questions, such as: What effect will the U.S. embargo have on Iran?

Most analysts agree that the embargo message is more a political than an economic one because the volume of trade exchange between the two countries does not exceed $4 billion, including around $3.5 billion in oil sales. Iranian oil could easily be sold in international markets.

The remainder of the figure, that is the $750 million, represents the value of U.S. goods that were exported to Iran. Since the other European countries will not abide by the embargo, then these goods could be obtained from their markets and if not then from the open Asian markets. In view of this, the U.S. decision is more

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an attempt to punish, to "brazenly" intimidate, and to pressure than one of effective economic pressure.

Why is the U.S. escalation taking place at this particular time?

I believe that the motive is that both Washington and Tel Aviv hope to have a peace agreement signed with Syria this year. Therefore, the two sides have an interest in silencing the last influential voice in the Middle East opposed to the peace process. Two birds will be killed with one stone if this is achieved. It will close the door of "troublemaking" for the stalling peace process on one hand and enable both Bill Clinton and Yitzhaq Rabin to fight their elections with greater assurance next year.

Could this develop into a military clash, as some officials in Tehran are expecting?

I rule this out because the European allies do not share Washington's view on the embargo, especially as two of the most important allies have good economic ties with Iran, namely Germany and France. The United States itself will not get involved in any military clash when it is facing presidential elections whose campaign has started.

What is the expected Iranian response to the U.S. decision?

I believe that the decision to declare a state of general mobilization in Iran was merely a precautionary measure. The Europeans' opposition to the embargo decision will greatly reduce the pressure on Iran. But the Strait of Hormuz card, through which the Gulf oil is shipped to the world, remains an important factor in the Iranian response calculations, if the need arises.

Do the Arab and Islamic countries have a role or part in this confrontation?

These countries are not that remote from the confrontation arena. Iran remains a major Islamic country, and a heavy one at that. It also represents an important hinterland for the Arab world in addition to being the latter's natural strategic depth. Weakening Iran after breaking the back of Iraq means that Israel will become the sole power in the Middle East region without any competitor or rival. It also means more weakness in the Arab stance, and everyone knows the rest.

Opposition Leader Addresses Message to Clinton

NC1605143195 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 May 95 p 1

["Open Letter" addressed to U.S. President Bill Clinton from Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Egyptian people and the rest of the Arab and Islamic peoples have received with great surprise and extreme concern your sudden decision and unwarranted escalation of the situation against the Islamic Republic of Iran with your declaration of a total economic embargo and your call on the international community to follow suit. As you and we know, Iran committed no aggression against anyone and occupied no other country's territory. You are accusing Iran of terrorism and of attempting to possess a nuclear program. We would like to make the following points:

1. If you accuse Iran of promoting terrorism because it supports Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad in the occupied Palestinian territories, "according to the UN and Security Council definitions," and because it supports the Islamic Resistance in occupied south Lebanon, again "according to the UN and Security Council definitions," you are not right. The Palestinian and Lebanese resistance of the occupation is legitimate and similar to the U.S. Minutemen, which resisted the British colonization of America, similar to the French resistance of the Nazi occupation, and similar to other national liberation movements. If you accuse Iran of terrorism because it supplies arms to the legitimate Bosnian Government, yet again "according to the UN and Security Council definitions," we regret to say that you contradict yourself and your decisions as the President of the United States. It seems you forgot or pretend you forget your decision to halt the U.S. role in banning the export of arms to Bosnia. If there are any acts of terror attributed to Iran, you are supposed to explain them in official statements. All the civilized world condemns acts of terrorism, which only increase chaos and instability in the world and kill innocent people. But U.S. Government spokesmen only explain the concept of terrorism in terms of what we mentioned about the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance. This concept is rejected by the whole civilized world, not only by Arabs and Muslims, who are being subjected to all this unjustified oppression and humiliation, even though we are committing no act of aggression.

2. Regarding nuclear reactors, this issue is exasperating all Arabs and Muslims, because you keep silent about and disguise the actual Israeli nuclear weapons — "200-300 nuclear warheads" — and raise all this furor over an Iranian nuclear project that has not yet begun. This project is peaceful and relies on the same type of nuclear

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reactors that you decided to give to North Korea (the kind that function with light water). The International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] declared that it is a peaceful project subject to supervision and in line with international law and treaties. The IAEA also declared that Iran notified it of its right to keep it under constant supervision and that it will return the nuclear fuel leftovers to Russia as a guarantee that it will not use them to make nuclear bombs. What more guarantees do you want? Or do you intend to ensure that the Arabs and Muslims remain lagging behind civilization? While there are hundreds of peaceful reactors in the world, there is no one single nuclear reactor in the Arab region from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf. You want Iran to join these deprived nations.

3. We regret that as you wage this ferocious campaign against Iran, you continue to overlook Israel's crimes and its continued occupation of Arab lands for 28 years. Almost on the same day you announced the boycott against Iran, Israel announced the Judaization of 13 feddans of land in Jerusalem. All that remains of Jerusalem now is 9 percent of its area, a narrow strip that surrounds the al-Aqsa Mosque. However, the al-Aqsa Mosque, which is an Islamic symbol because it is the first Qiblah and the third holy site, cannot be relinquished. This mosque is coming under an onslaught and the excavations around it threaten it with destruction. Moreover, there are declared Jewish schemes to destroy it and turn it into the Temple of Solomon. The envoy you sent to the Middle East (Mrs. Madeleine Albright) has said that the UN Security Council is not the place to discuss what goes on in Jerusalem.

Mr. U.S. President, for 28 years we have been looking for the right place to discuss the onslaught on holy Jerusalem. We hope you will guide us to it. Mrs. Albright's statements involved ultimate contempt for the United Nations and the Security Council. You are requesting us to respect the UN Security Council resolutions when it comes to sanctions against Arab and Muslim states. Even the rituals of the Muslim duty of Hajj you ask us to do through the Security Council if we live in Iraq or Libya. In the meantime, you say that Israel's violation of scores of UN Security Council resolutions concerning the Palestinian issue and the lands occupied in 1967 should not be discussed at the Security Council.

Is there a more effective way to push people of the region toward despair of obtaining their lawful rights through the United Nations or any other international arrangement? You then express surprise at the escalation of suicidal and fedayeen operations as well as all forms of resistance in the occupied territories in Palestine, Lebanon, and other areas aggrieved by international injustice.

I have one last word to say. Do not deal with our Arab-Muslim nation as though it were a nation of the dead. It is a living nation. It will fight all forms of humiliation and serfdom through all legitimate means. It will not stay silent forever to the embargo forced upon it, the embargo you took to excess to humiliate and demean people of the region.

My advice to you, if you want to hear it, is to stay away from the claws of the Zionist lobby, which has thrived on ruining relations between the Arabs and America. Remember your positive and tolerant remarks about Islam and Muslims; they will go with the wind if they lack the credibility provided by actual practice.

Peace be on those who follow the guidance of God.

[Signed] Ibrahim Shukri, leader of the Labor Party

Interior Minister Denies Human Rights Violations

NC1705103695 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 10 May 95 p 3

[Interview with Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] ['Abd-al-Fattah] Why did the Ministry of Interior reject the request of the non-governmental human rights organizations to visit the prisons, not to inspect them?

[Al-Alfi] First, unfortunately, some organizations asked to inspect the prisons. No country in the world lets just any party inspect its prisons. This is an attack on the sovereignty of the state itself. Nobody will accept this at all. Inspection is rejected by any authority, irrespective of who or what it is, unless stipulated by the law of that country.

Second, these organizations are attacking the state without justification for doing so and for no reason at all, and with a very specific purpose in mind. How can I let them inspect my prisons? Is there no law? The law has mapped out a method for inspecting prisons. It also directs the prison administration on how to manage prisons. The judicial authority administers and inspects the prisons. In spite of all this, I would allow representatives from the domestic media to visit the prisons. We are not afraid of anyone, and are not doing anything wrong. It is unfair to say these things about Egypt, this ancient country, the country of civilization, one of the countries most concerned about human rights.

While we are on the subject of human rights, there is nothing like what Egypt is doing in many countries in

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the world. We have introduced human rights as a subject to be taught at police academies. There is also a human rights desk at the Public Prosecutor's Office. During the past two years, scholarships have been given to send groups of officers to train on human rights issues. They studied everything that has to do with human rights. Why are we doing this and what is our interest in it? When we took all these measures, it was because of our concern for Egypt's reputation and human rights themselves. Frankly, recently there have been loud cries about human rights, and attacks against Egypt for human rights violations have increased. This happens every time Egypt succeeds in its war against organized crime and terrorism abates. Such talk about human rights increases in direct proportion to the increased success of the security forces in combating terrorism. Do people not have a right to live in peace and security? Does the victim have no rights? Why did we not hear these loud cries two years ago when children, innocent people, and police officers were being killed each day on the streets? Are these not citizens? Nevertheless, the security forces are very concerned about human rights. During the past years, we have been very patient in our fight against terrorism. We could have annihilated the terrorists. Some countries actually did that. We found weapons and got full confessions from the people who are currently in prison, which would have entitled us to kill them on the spot. However, we preferred to try them and they received prison sentences while they were the ones who were killing officers. I can give the example of the terrorist who hid behind his children, hit an officer, and hurled a bomb that did not explode, and yet, we shot him in the leg. And what did he have to say during his interrogation? The police are cowards, he said; why did they not kill me?

These are incidents we see every day. When a police officer or a citizen dies, they say that this is his fate. But when a defendant is grazed, the whole world is up in arms. I do not know what these people want. We are able to respond to their statements, but where are human rights with respect to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Chechnya, throwing bombs at parliaments, and the massacres that are being committed everywhere in this world? [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Fattah] When will the emergency law be canceled, since it violates human rights?

[Al-Alfi] First, this law does not violate human rights because it is stipulated in the Constitution. It exists in the laws of the superpowers, too. The emergency law cannot be used except within a specific framework for the defense of citizens' rights. We have not used it against human rights. It is used against the saboteurs who destroy human rights and development in the country. This is a wrong impression that people have about Egypt. How can you claim that the emergency law is against human rights? It was formulated to protect human rights in the state. The law has no effect on elections. There are some people from the opposition who succeed in the elections. Has the emergency law affected them? The pre-election party congresses are organized by a decision from the interior minister, and the emergency law has nothing to with that. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Fattah] What will the position of the police be during the coming parliamentary elections for both the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council, and what are your instructions to the security forces about these elections?

[Al-Alfi] First, I would like to clarify that the role of the Interior Ministry in the elections is to keep the order only. Officials responsible for elections are members of the committees that follow the voting and counting processes. Each committee is headed by a judge. The role of the police is to preserve security and order. They do not interfere in the election process. No individual from the police is allowed to enter the committee buildings except through a request from the head of the committee and only to keep the order. These are very clear instructions. I do not expect the ministry to interfere in the election process. The position of the police is perfectly neutral and these are the instructions. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister: All 'Terrorist' Leaders Arrested

NC1705085395 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 10 May 95 p 1

[Report by Iman Anwar]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister of Interior Major General Hasan al-Alfi has announced that all terrorist leaders in Egypt have been arrested. He noted that the danger emanates from abroad where terrorists are trained and sent to Egypt.

He said he held talks on this issue on the sidelines of the UN Congress for the Prevention of Crime with the participating delegates and that several agreements were signed on the exchange of criminals.

In exclusive statements to AL-AKHBAR, the interior minister said there has been coordination between Egypt and Pakistan on terrorism. He added that Egypt named terrorists living there and asked Pakistan to hand them over. There are legal procedures to be followed to effect the extradition, he noted.

Al-Alfi emphasized that the release of repenting terrorists takes place after making absolutely certain that they

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are serious in repentance. He said contacts and meetings are held between them and religious ulema during their detention to provide them with advice and guidance. Besides, he added, the Interior Ministry cares about solving their problems after their release.

Police Question Returned Afghanistan 'Terrorists'

NC1605210795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA) — The Higher State Security Prosecution today identified the bodies of the two terrorists who were killed in 'Ayn Shams [in Cairo] Friday [12 May]. They are 'Ali Mahmud al-Khashshab and 'Atif Muhammad 'Ali, from Suhaj.

In another development, the prosecution began interrogating three terrorists who have returned from Afghanistan: 'Asim Mahmud, Ayman Mustafa, and Khamis al-Sayyid.

They face several charges including belonging to an unlawful and unconstitutional group seeking to change the system of government by force, sheltering terrorists, and threatening social peace and security.

The interrogations showed that the three prepared hideouts to shelter fugitive terrorists. They also performed liaison between terrorists at home and abroad, and they obtained an international telephone to use for contacting terrorists.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Delivers Speech to Mujahidin

LD1705095295 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1919 GMT 16 May 95

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the first meeting of the mujahidin who participated in the Arab wars for "Palestine," on 15 May; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God. First of all, brothers, we ought to solemnly honor the memory of the martyrs of the Libyan people and the Arab nation who died for the sake of Palestine on this particular day when the enemy is celebrating the occupation and usurpation of Palestine by force. [passage omitted]

What a difference there is between people like you who fought and made sacrifices, and other trivial sections, who smuggle and take drugs with the money, as well as indulge in drinking. They even act as pimps. They have been shamed by their own people in this world and will be tortured in the other world. [passage omitted]

If all the Arabs from the ocean to the Gulf compare their worm-like biological, trivial, and marginal life, which is approved neither by God nor by conscience nor by their nation — from the ruler to the ordinary citizen... [pauses] We challenge them with a group of Arab citizens who left their families and their countries in 1948. There were no aircraft or cars then so they went on foot [to Palestine]. [passage omitted]

In the final analysis, everyone dies — kings, rulers, and ordinary citizens die; some of them die as martyrs, while others die despicably, leaving behind shame. We want to show them that in this [Arab] nation, which is gripped by and stifled by despair, there are a spirit and forces that are capable of defeating despair and confronting the enemy, and there are youths who are prepared to sacrifice. Sana' Muhaydili [Lebanese who carried out a suicide operation against an Israeli patrol in southern Lebanon] is far better than [words indistinct, drowned by applause and cheers]. This example can restore conscience and manhood to the Arab rulers, who are today lying on their bellies. [passage omitted]

The Arab rulers, with their tanks, airplanes, and armies are watching the siege of Lebanon. Until today, Lebanon has been under siege for 100 days by an Israeli blockade. Three Israeli boats are besieging Lebanon, and neither the Syrian, nor the Egyptian planes, nor Jordanian hypocrisy [have done anything].

Recognizing what is falsely called Israel [words indistinct]. Do you know what is circulating now, and they are trying to convince the Arabs of it: If Israeli planes attacked Cairo, Cairo should not respond. Why? Because Egypt has concluded a peace agreement with Israel. They want to convince us of this. [passage omitted]

I am sure that if Israeli planes attacked Cairo, they would convince Cairo, they would even condemn it if it responded. [passage omitted]

The evidence for that is that they attack Lebanon, and the Arabs are unable to implement the joint defense agreement. Why? Because the Arabs said we have opened the door of peace, and not the door of war. But Israel is fighting. It has opened the door of war. Israel has opened the door of war, but the Arabs open the door of peace. Look at the farce. Fine.

Syria is responsible for defending Lebanon, and the Arabs are responsible for defending Lebanon in accordance with the joint defense agreement. The Syrian army is present on Lebanese territory. When the so-called Israel attacks Lebanon, Syria must in fact respond. Syria may now say it is incapable of responding, because it engaged with the Israelis once on its own and 100 planes were shot down, and 500 tanks were lost.

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That was when Syria fought by itself, while the Arabs were watching it in 1982, I think. [Voice from the audience confirms that it was in 1982] Yes, 1982. Thus, at any rate, let 100 planes be shot down, or let even all of Syria fall — duty remains duty. So long as the Israelis have attacked Lebanon, Syria should engage in battle with them.

As you know, Lebanon is under siege; the Lebanese coast is under siege; ordinary Lebanese fishermen are unable to fish in Lebanese territorial waters. Israeli gunboats are now throwing a naval siege against Lebanon while the Arabs look on. It is a shame that the Arab rulers are looking on; the Arab governments are [word indistinct]. This is something we want to outline through you to the Arab nation. The Arab peoples today ought to know and the officers of the Arab armies from the ocean to the Gulf should hear these words today and know, and the soldiers should hear these words and the students and workers and peasants and the Arab citizen everywhere should hear these words, despite the fact that the Arab radios are not telling them the truth: Lebanon is an Arab country that has been under siege by the Israeli navy for the past 100 days or so, while the Arab League is looking on, while the Arab Joint Defense Treaty allows it to fight in order to remove the blockade from Lebanon by force; even without the Arab Joint Defense Treaty, we have an Arab country under siege and we should defend it.

The fighting in Lebanon by the Israelis — the air raids on Lebanon — are described as being against Hizballah. Who is Hizballah? Hizballah is composed of Lebanese who are fighting for the liberation of their country. They say the fighting is not against Lebanon, but against Hizballah. Look at this mockery! Alright, then the Arabs should strike back; Syria should strike back at Israeli air bases and say: No, I am not fighting Israel, I am fighting the airmen of the Israeli Air Force who attacked us; I am not fighting you, Israel, nor am I fighting the Israeli people. I am fighting the airmen in the Israeli Air Force. You either answer them in this way or... [sentence incomplete as heard] They say: No, we are not fighting against Lebanon. We are fighting the Lebanese fighters. What words! Who is Lebanon? Who is Hizballah? Hizballah is composed of Lebanese who are resisting in order to liberate occupied southern Lebanon.

We are now enumerating the very shameful jokes by the Arab rulers — the jokes that may make us think about changing alliances. In the end, we may open our warehouses to the one who is fighting the Arab regimes. We blame Sudan and we say to them: You are supporting the extremist groups and the groups that carry out assassinations. Sudan replies: Why do you defend some Arab regimes? What are these regimes worth for you to defend? These are capitulationist and defeated regimes, defeated by the United States and Israel as well as by regionalism and backwardness, and they are incapable.

The fact remains that when we blame Rached Ghannouchi and Hasan al-Turabi or anyone else, these people reply: And why do you defend these Arab regimes? In fact, the Arab regimes left us no room to defend them. How can we defend the capitulationist Arab regimes, which have failed with regard to [Arab] unity; they have failed to realize unity; they have failed against the United States; they have surrendered to the Israelis. They have failed both in war and in peace. They have failed in the sphere of development.

Why do we defend these official Arab regimes? The Arabs know that they stand condemned and are trying to rid themselves of their submissiveness through falsification. Whenever they mention Hizballah, they describe it as "the pro-Iranian Hizballah." This is a shame for the Arabs. He who is fighting the enemy and is trying to liberate his occupied land is said to be pro-Iranian, but he who is pro-Arab is capitulationist. This in itself is shameful for the Arabs. You hear radios that say "the pro-Iranian Hizballah;" naturally they would say that because Hizballah is fighting the enemy. What about the party which is loyal to you? It has capitulated!

What is taking place in Iraq is another joke. By this mockery, the enemy wants to test the Arabs — I mean when this enemy singles out one Arab country and humiliates and stifles it, killing its children. Have the Arabs the self-respect and honor and the spirit to move? The enemy is testing the credibility and morale and manhood of the Arabs. This is a test.

They are now trampling over Iraq; they are trampling over Iraq's children. What is now taking place in Iraq has nothing to do with Kuwait whatsoever. Who can believe this? Iraq withdrew from Kuwait such a long time ago and recognized its independence and border; now they should shake hands. What is taking place now is something else. They hit any Arab country that may raise its head or begin to manufacture goods. It has nothing to do with Kuwait. What is this love for Kuwait by the Western states? The Western states look for oil — either from Kuwait or from any sultan or shaykh or amir. There is oil in Iraq, too! They told Iraq to occupy Kuwait. Can the Americans wipe that out? They told Iraq to occupy Kuwait as a reward for Iraq's war against Khomeyni. Iraq believed them.

Iraq believed them and occupied Kuwait, and they abandoned it after that. They caught it in the trap in order to destroy it. They destroyed Iran in Iraq, and they

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destroyed Iraq in Kuwait, and they will destroy Kuwait tomorrow in Qatar or Bahrain. They will destroy Oman in Abu Dhabi tomorrow, and destroy Saudi Arabia in Yemen, or Yemen in Saudi Arabia. The situation is developing freely in this form. It is a farce.

Was it the first time that an Arab country entered another Arab country? Egypt had occupied Saudi Arabia in Muhammad Ali's time and desecrated its capital Dar'a for three days. We have forgotten it, and Saudi Arabia and Egypt are friends. If Iraq occupied Kuwait once and left it, do we spend our lives shedding tears? Let us then shed tears about Dar'a, the Saudi capital, which Egypt desecrated for three days.

How many times have the Syrian armies entered Lebanon? Why should we not cry for Lebanon, which the Syrian armies have entered. They still consider Lebanon to be under Syrian military control.

The Egyptian armies entered Sudan and committed massacres, fires, and destruction at the time of Isma'il Pasha, I do not know who! Why did we not cry about Sudan, which the Egyptian armies entered? We have forgotten it, even the Egyptians and the Sudanese have forgotten it, and the Saudis have forgotten that the Egyptians occupied and desecrated their capital, Dar'a, for three days. [passage omitted]

On 12 May, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution; these [shows some papers to the audience] are the speeches made by the members of the Council — all the members of the Security Council and what they said about the Israelis. They all said that the action taken by the Israelis in seizing land in East Jerusalem was a threat to peace. [passage omitted]

Alright, what are the Arabs doing now regarding the new scandal and the new embarrassment for their crowns and maces? The Israelis have annexed more then 50 hectares of land in Arab Jerusalem, and not from the part that belongs to them. [passage omitted] Will the UN Security Council's resolution and the resolution issued by the Arab League make the Israelis return the 50 hectares? Impossible! This is not the first time. If the Israelis do not return the land, what will happen then? Will the Arabs fight? They should fight. The land that the Israelis took yesterday can only be retrieved by war. Now it is the duty of Egypt, which has recognized the state of Israel, to fight, using its army, in order to retrieve Jerusalem. They — the Arabs and Muslims — issued these resolutions [shows the audience some papers]. [passage omitted]

We, as of today and as an Islamic state, declare our implementation of this resolution and call on the Arab states which met in Mecca to abide by this resolution. [passage omitted]

As of today, we would like to draw the attention of all those who met at that Islamic summit [in 1981 in Mecca] to this resolution, and we as a state will begin to implement the resolution which they adopted. That was the resolution of an Islamic summit; it is not a Libyan resolution. They decided, and Libya will carry it out.

This is a list [shows some papers to the audience] containing 40 resolutions issued by the Security Council against the Israelis, who did not implement one single resolution. They demand that Libya implement Resolution No. 400 — I cannot remember the number. The Security Council resolutions in total have reached number 700. Resolution No. 42 was the first one against the Israelis — right from that time; this means that the when the Security Council began to adopt resolutions, the first one was a condemnation of Israel. Naturally, the one who continuously stands against this is the United States. This is written here in these resolutions — the United States abstains, etc., even when the entire Security Council acted, the United States refused; the United States, the friend of the Arabs! The United States, which gives wheat and dollars to the Arabs — their friend! This wheat is poison, and the dollar is a dagger. If they enable the Israelis to produce atomic bombs to destroy the entire Arab nation, what is the benefit of the wheat and dollars they give to some Arab states, if against that they enable Israel to manufacture more than 200 atomic bombs? Who acted against the Arab's right? The Arabs or the enemies? The enemy remains an enemy! Before us, we have 40 resolutions that were adopted by the UN Security Council against the Israelis. The Israelis refused to implement them.

They have become so brazen and insolent that they can demand that any state, at the forefront of which is Libya, implement the resolutions of the UN Security Council; because 40 resolutions were adopted against the Zionist enemy, who, with absolute support from the United States, refused to implement them. The United States is the one encouraging them and the one which voted against those resolutions; how can they ask us to implement a resolution? If the 40 resolutions were to be implemented, then Libya would implement the resolution, including the handing over of the citizens [accused in the Lockerbie case] to a [word indistinct] court. We challenge them. [applause] They are prepared to go to the United States and Britain if the Israelis implement all the resolutions issued against them; all the resolutions — there are 40 resolutions. If Israel implements them, Libya will then implement the resolution which the Security Council issued against

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it. We defy them. We are prepared to implement to implement the Security Council resolution, including appearing before an U.S. or British court there, if the Israelis implement the 40 resolutions issued against them. Otherwise there will be no implementation of the Security Council resolution adopted against Libya, not until the day of judgement. [applause]

Let them go plough the sea. Let them head-butt the sky! [shouts] Yes, to hell with them 100 times! This is a mockery; the world has become a mockery, a joke; they are playing with the Arab nation. This is no longer an international community! [passage omitted]

This is one point; the other point is that we would like to thank the Americans and the Jews — the Israelis — as they have provided us with the excuse and justification for disregarding the Security Council resolutions and throw them to the wall and place them in the rubbish bin; this is because they themselves did that. Can they ask us to respect these resolutions while they pour scorn on them?

We do the same as they do; they do not respect the Security Council resolutions and therefore we do likewise. If they do not implement them, we do likewise. Either all of us implement all Security Council resolutions, or nothing; then we will say to them: to hell with you. [applause]

The other point is that we would like to thank the Israelis and the Americans and the entire Western alliance for having provided the Arabs with the excuse and justification to manufacture the atomic bomb — if they can — openly, as such an action will be regarded as justified and for the sake of peace and in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter. [applause and cheers] It is considered self-defense, because they told the Israelis that the right to manufacture atom bombs is self-defense and to maintain peace. Based on this, we say to them that peace in the Middle East can only come about if there is mutual nuclear deterrence. The Arabs have an atom bomb and the Israelis have an atom bomb; this is mutual nuclear deterrence, because they said the peace after the World War II only lasted for such a long time because there was mutual nuclear deterrence. Russia has atom bombs and the Americans and their alliance have atom bombs. As long as both had atom bombs, no one started a war and the peace lasted for 50 years.

As long as the Middle East is a hot spot liable to explode and they want peace there, there must be mutual nuclear deterrence. [passage omitted]

So the Arabs are now thanking the Israelis and the Americans for giving them the justification so they can manufacture nuclear weapons, if they have the capability, openly in broad daylight, considering it to be legitimate for the sake of peace and self- defense. When they told the Israelis they must be stripped of their nuclear bombs, they said: No, this is self-defense. Do we not have a self to defend? Are we animals? Goddamn their fathers and grandfathers! — the Americans, the Jews, the Israelis, the West. [passage omitted]

The Arabs must get their money together and make a nuclear bomb openly for the sake of peace. There must be a balance of power in weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East region. As for the Israelis, we emphasize to the Arabs and to our brothers in Egypt who are in the mouth of the gun... [pauses] The first nuclear bomb will fall on Egypt, there is no doubt about that — an Israeli nuclear bomb. We emphasize to them that the Israelis will not renounce their nuclear weapons until the day of judgement.

This goes without saying. So time is being lost, but, thanks be to God, we now have a solution from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Those Arabs who can make nuclear weapons can make them, and the United States cannot strike them or attack them because if it does, they [the Arabs] will attack the Israelis, the Israeli nuclear reactor in Dimona. [passage omitted]

The poor old Arabs still think that there is logic, international law, that the United States can actually give them food and drink and protect them. Even ruling families — the day they have served their purpose, the United States squeezes them like a lemon, throws them away, and brings another family in their place. How many ruling families they have played with — the ruling family in Pakistan, the ruling family in Iran, the ruling families in all the countries they have controlled. [passage omitted]

The United States is now conspiring against Saudi Arabia. You have witnessed how the attitude of Saudi Arabia vis-a-vis the United States has changed. It has changed now because Saudi Arabia has realized that the United States is the real enemy and is interfering in minute Saudi matters. It even wants to interfere in order to dictate who should rule Saudi Arabia. In actual fact, I like the tone of our brothers in Saudi Arabia these days [applause] because they have discovered the U.S. conspiracy against them. The day before yesterday, the Security Council adopted this resolution against the Israelis, who should cancel their confiscation of the 50 hectares of Arab land. The resolution calls on the Government of Israel to immediately cancel the orders of confiscation and the arrangements pertaining to these orders, and not to take such measures in future.

Look at this — this is the Security Council resolution. Let us see the Israelis cancel these arrangements and not

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repeat them in future. They will never give up the 50 hectares; they will annex another 50 and then another 50 and another 50 until Jerusalem totally comes under their control and the immortal capital city of the Jewish State, as they say. There is nothing but war. Now that is it; these are the Arab summit resolutions; and these are the resolutions of the Islamic summits; and these are the Nonaligned Movement resolutions; and these are the Security Council resolutions. There remains only God! The Israelis have nothing for it except war, and the Arabs and the Muslims should begin with the liberation of Jerusalem by force. [cheers]

There should be a jihad; a jihad should be declared and we should march onto Jerusalem and Palestine. That is it, as all peaceful means have been exhausted. We have been tolerant and patient. This is joke; it is a mockery. I am sure that the Israeli warplanes will begin to fly over Damascus and Cairo during the coming period and the coming years; you will see! They will not stop at Iraq and at Libya and Somalia and Jerusalem. You will see! They are trying to get us accustomed to defeat and submission, and not to have self- respect and not to retaliate. Tomorrow, their warplanes will fly over Cairo and Damascus. These warplanes are now flying over Damascus; they are now flying over the Syrian army in Lebanon. The aim as far as the Israelis and the Americans are concerned is a distant one — to occupy the Arab countries; they have no friend. They are resolved to make the Arab region their own, unless the Arabs fight! The Arabs are in need of people like you. The nation needs many, many people like you — you who fought in 1948 and 1978 [applause and cheers]

There is no peace. This is nonsense, from 'Arafat, to Egypt, to the UN secretary general. All of them are aware and convinced that there is no peace with the Israelis. Israel has convinced them that there is no peace, and the United States is behind it. Consequently, they will not abandon the 50 hectares they took from Jerusalem, and will continue to annex East Jerusalem, which is 100 percent Arab, to West Jerusalem until it becomes their eternal capital.

We have reached the closed road. All resolutions have now been exhausted, and only holy jihad remains in implementation of the 1981 Islamic summit council in Mecca, which stipulated the declaration of holy war. We adhere to this; prepare yourselves to fight once more.

Are you prepared to fight once more in Palestine, in Jerusalem? [crowd responds in affirmative] Alright, prepare yourselves. Prepare yourselves and we shall embarrass the Arab and Islamic countries, the Security Council, the United Nations, and the world. We must embarrass them.

The issue must materialize, and truth be revealed. The Arab world must be shaken. The present farce will not last. Yes, it is a call for jihad from the ocean to the Gulf. The Islamic world and all the Islamic nation are invited to the jihad; prepare yourselves to be the first vanguard, and I, if the Libyan people allow me, would be the first fighter to lead you to liberate and be martyred in Jerusalem.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Issues Decree on Presidential Prerogatives

EA0505140295 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1320 GMT 3 May 95

["Text" of Republican Decree No. 165 issued by President 'Umar Hasan al—Bashir in Khartoum on 2 May]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the most merciful, the most beneficient: a Republican decree on reorganizing the prerogatives of the presidency of the Republic. Republican Decree No. 165 of 1995:

In the name of God and in the name of the people, I the president of the Republic, after studying the third constitutional decree of 1991 and the seventh constitutional decree of 1993, hereby issue this republican decree whose text is as follows:

I. The name of the decree and its enforcement: This decree is called the Republican Decree on Reorganizing the Prerogatives of the Presidency of the Republic, 1995, and comes into force upon being signed.

II. Presidency of the Republic: The presidency of the Republic shall be composed of:

A. The president

B. The first vice president
C. The vice president
D. The minister of the presidency of the Republic
E. The president's advisers
F. The ministers of state who are advisers.
G. The office of the presidency of the Republic.

III. The prerogatives of the president of the Republic: The president of the Republic shall be the supreme constitutional head of the Republic and ruler, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the United Police Force, the Popular Defence Force, and the political and executive head of the country who protects it from dangers, maintains justice, and protects the dignity and rights of the citizens.

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This also extends to all that is clearly specified in state laws and regulations such as:

A. To exercise the state's executive powers.

B. To supervise the federal administration offices and organize federal and state governments.
C. To supervise the judiciary, the attorney-general, to promote the justice system and appoint its courts in accordance with the law.
D. To appoint and dismiss vice presidents of the Republic, the speaker of the National Assembly, the chief justice, ministers of state, governors of federal and state governments, judges, legal advisers, and service heads.
E. To initiate draft constitutional bills that accord with constitutional legislation.
F. To supervise federal organs and institutions where their laws or regulations specify it.
G. To supervise the security apparatus.
H. To confirm the accreditation of ambassadors and representatives of foreign states to the Government of Sudan.
I. To assent to laws, to grant general amnesty and the power to reprieve or reduce sentences according to the law.
J. To declare a state of war following approval by the National Assembly.
K. To declare a state of emergency after informing and seeking a decision from the National Assembly.
L. To supervise public auditing and public service.

IV. The prerogatives of the first vice president of the Republic shall be as follows:

A. That which is clearly specified in regulations regarding his assumption of presidential powers and prerogatives in the absence of the president.
B. That which is specified by law concerning the first vice president's traditional powers.
C. The first vice president is empowered with the following prerogatives and any other authorized prerogative:
1. To supervise th establishment of federal administration.
2. To supervise the political system.

V. The prerogatives of the vice president:

A. The vice president of the republic is directly bound by the jurisdiction of the law.
B. The vice president is vested with the following prerogatives and any other authorized prerogative:
1. To supervise the performance of the service sector in the state.
2. To supervise the affairs of the general electoral and referendum commission.

VI. The prerogatives of the presidential advisers. The presidential advisers shall have the following prerogatives:

A. Presidential adviser on security matters:
1. To coordinate with both the internal and external security apparatus.
2. To consult the president on security issues.
3. Membership of the General Security Committee.
4. Any other important task delegated to him by the president of the Republic.
B. Presidential adviser on military issues:
1. To consult the president on military matters.
2. Any other important task delegated to him by the president of the Republic.

VII. The prerogatives of the minister of the presidency of the Republic. The prerogatives of the minister of the presidency of the Republic shall be as follows:

A. General supervision of the work of the presidency of the Republic.
B. To draw up plans and programs for improving the presidential system and submitting them to the president of the Republic.
C. To coordinate the work of the president of the Republic and his two deputies, and their internal and external activities, as well as to organize contacts between them and implement their proper decisions and recommendations.
D. To supervise the management and the executive office of the presidency of the Republic.
E. To supervise the security, location and leadership of the presidency of the Republic.
F. To supervise the Protocol Department.
G. To supervise the Friendship Hall.
H. Any important task delegated to him by the president of the Republic.

VII. The prerogatives of the state ministers who are advisers:

A. Minister of state and political adviser [word indistinct].
1. To facilitate political meetings of the president and his two deputies and to [word indistinct] by liaising with the director of the office of the president.
2. To (?monitor) and analyse changes in international politics and their bearing on the country.

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3. To observe, analyse and classify whatever has a bearing on political affairs and those who affect political affairs.
4. To supervise the political department at the presidency of the Republic.
5. Any other important task delegated to him by the president of the Republic.
B. The prerogatives of the minister of state and legal adviser. The minister of state and legal adviser'sprerogatives shall be as follows:
1. The legal formulation of constitutional, republican and provisional decrees, as well as presidential decrees.
2. To coordinate with the attorney-general in formulating laws directed by the president.
3. Monitor the work of the council of ministers and the National Assembly regarding the presentation of legislations and their approval.
4. Study, summarize, and comment on all that is prepared by the judiciary for the president.
5. Study, summarize, and comment on all that is prepared by the attorney-general for the president.
6. To provide legal advice to the presidency of the Republic on any required subject.
7. Accept petitions from the citizens, redress wrongs by liaising with state organs and referring exceptional cases to the president for decision.
8. Supervise the work of the legal department at the presidency of the Republic.
9. The prerogatives of the undersecretary of the presidency of the Republic shall be as follows:
A. Supervise the different administrative affairs of the presidency of the Republic and monitor and promote performance.
B. Draw up and implement training plans and programs.
C. Supervise the affairs of the presidency's employees.
10. The prerogatives of the president's press adviser shall be as follows:
A. [Passage indistinct]
B. Arrange press interviews and conferences for the president.
C. Monitor and evaluate both internal and external press coverage concerning the country.
D. Liaise with press and media organs on any information issue regarding the presidency of the Republic.
E. Any other task that may be assigned him by the president or the minister of the presidency of the Republic.
11. Meetings of the presidency:
A. The presidency of the republic shall meet regularly, once every three months.
B. The minister of the presidency shall convene a regular meeting once every month under his chairmanship to be attended by advisers and departmental heads.
12. Programs: The minister of the presidency of the Republic shall draw up necessary programs to reorganize the work of the presidency of the Republic and its general administration.

[Signed] Staff Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the Republic

Legal Adviser Says Decree 'Checks' Powers

EA1205110095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The legal adviser to the president of the Republic, Mr. Ahmad Ibrahim al-Tahir, has said that the decree issued recently on reorganizing the work of the presidency of the Republic was aimed at limiting prerogatives and facilitating the work of constitutionalists at the [words indistinct].

He said that no extra powers had been added to or taken away from those traditionally recognized by the laws and regulations pertaining to the issue of the presidency.

Asked whether the decree gives the president of the Republic extra constitutional and legal powers, the legal adviser stressed that the decree checks his powers and does not increase them.

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Gulf Affairs

U.S. Secretary Perry's Gulf Visit Criticized

95LH0130A Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic
3 Apr 95 p3

[Editorial: "Arab-American-Iranian Tragicomedies"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The paradox in the Arab reality reaches the point of the comic, but it is tragicomic. Two weeks ago, or a little earlier, U.S. Secretary of Defense Perry toured some of his protectorates in the Gulf that are scared stiff with fear, that are bloated with vanity, and that are bursting at the seams with corruption, oil, and shaykhs. From the position of a new owner of the land and of what is below it and the position of the absolute ruler of those above it, the U.S. secretary warned of the perils of the movement of 8,000 Iranian troops in the direction of the islands, meaning the three Arab islands whose ownership is disputed by the United Arab Emirates and Iran. The minister—the representative of the great state and superpower—then corrected the figure, reducing it to 6,000 troops. He said that the movement of these forces poses a threat to the Gulf region's security and states, even though this Gulf's weapon purchases exceed its need and even though the weapons found in its stockpiles exceed those found in some European countries. We better not forget here that the hundreds of billions of dollars that were spent on these stockpiled idle weapons were spent for the purpose of ensuring security, which continues to be threatened and which will continue to be so until the last drop of oil. The real purpose of the weapon purchases was to nourish the West's factories and establishments, not to ensure security for the Gulf. The purpose was also to nourish these factories and establishments with the ability to develop their production and to enhance the West's power vis-a-vis the world. Astronomical commission fees, which translated into stunning bank accounts in the West, went along with those purchases. We wish the West would seize these accounts and relax, giving us rest and bringing the oil rulers down from their high heavens so we will become their equals as human beings and they will become our equals in humanity and poverty!

Despite the tragicomic paradox raised by the warning of the U.S. secretary, who is more concerned with oil than with its rulers and owners, no one in that slumbering Gulf, which is kneeling obediently, submissively, servilely, and fearfully has asked: If 6,000 Iranian troops and their rifles, perhaps old rifles, pose a threat to this Gulf's security and to oil and oil passage, then what about the U.S. presence, with its battleships, destroyers, rocket launchers, fire launchers, and its air force that is turning the Arabs' night into day and their day into night? Rather, what about the U.S. political presence that is stifling all of us with its weight and that causes the Gulf rulers to shake and tremble in fear? As for the peoples, the United States has left the shadows of their shadows in fear for their fear of fear!

Iran, which is a part of the region's history and geography, poses a threat to the region! Not so the United States, which comes from far away. It has come—as all of us, none excluded, know—to steal the oil, to control its lands, and to impose on the region's borders and vicinity its transient Jewish peace!

We are not justifying the mistakes of Iran's policy, which often contradicts Iran's interest in normal relations with the peoples of the region and its vicinity. Neither do we absolve some Arabs of the error of their policy vis-a-vis Iran. Rather than push Iran stupidly to be hostile to them and rather than incite it to threaten their land and security, these Arabs can have Iran as a support.

But does one wrong justify another?

Has not the Gulf war given us an adequate lesson from which we learn that the purpose was oil specifically and that the high cost of this war is divided among us, oil-owning Arabs and water-owning Arabs, equally!

We tell all Arabs: Fear not Iran, which is—by the capitulationist logic of some of you—more entitled to the disputed Arab islands than is Israel to Palestine. You have agreed to cede Palestine and have signed the surrender contracts, and here you are seeking Israel's satisfaction!

To Iran, with all its ruling wings, we say: Enough manipulation of slogans and enough arousing of the neighbors' fears of your arrogance, force, and isolationism. The threat engulfs everybody, both you and us. The region's forces and the will of its free peoples must unite to protect the region.

Protect it. Else, oppression and darkness will envelop the entire region, which will then enter the phase of weightlessness, lack of security, and lack of freedom and dignity.

Bahrain

Amir Receives Phone Call From Egyptian President

JN1705080395 Manama WAKH in Arabic
0515 GMT 17 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 16 May (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, this evening received a telephone call from Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

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They reviewed the close fraternal relations between both sisterly countries and peoples, as well as recent regional developments and Arab and international issues of mutual interest.

The amir of Bahrain profoundly thanked the Egyptian president and appreciated his good feelings toward Bahrain's amir, government, and people. He wished the president continued good health and happiness and the fraternal Egyptian people further progress, development, and prosperity under Mubarak's wise leadership.

His highness also noted the deep relations of friendship and cooperation between both fraternal countries and expressed his appreciation for the role President Mubarak is playing in order to serve the causes of our Arab and Islamic nation.

Kuwait

Recovery of Private Debts Threatens Stock Market

MS0905122495 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 9 May 95 p 8

[Report by David Gardner and Robin Allen: "Kuwait Debt May prompt Asset Fire-Sale"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait — The Kuwaiti government's attempt to recover part of the KD [Kuwait dinars] 7bn (14.9bn pounds) in private debts which it took on as a result of the 1982 local stock market crash and as a result of the damage caused by the 1990-91 Iraqi occupation is threatening to ignite a fire-sale of private Kuwaiti assets.

The move threatens to undermine the local stock and real estate markets.

Under a July 1992 decree, the Kuwaiti government bought KD5.9bn worth of personal and corporate debt from commercial banks which had lent to "investors" on the Souk al-Manakh stock market and had incurred losses as a result of the Iraqi occupation. In return the government issued debt bonds. These debt bonds still comprise one- third of commercial banks' total assets.

The following year, the national assembly passed Law 41, effective from September 6, 1993, by which the government gave debtors — the original investors — two repayment options.

The first option enabled them to settle in full and benefit from immediate discounts of up to 55 per cent or settle within two years and benefit from a sliding scale of discounts depending on the size of the debt. This two-year period comes to an end on September 6.

According to central bank governor Shaykh Salim al-Sabah the total amount due to be settled by September 6 is KD2.2bn.

Under the second option, debtors were given 12 years to pay in equal annual instalments. All debtors had to register their debts and intentions with the banks.

A senior government official acknowledged to the Financial Times if the law as currently framed is carried out, and the September deadline met, "the real estate market and the stock market will collapse".

Shaykh Salim said that much of the debtors' assets was in commercial real estate and quoted shares. "Commercial real estate is not liquid, and selling these assets takes time. Selling shares also would have a negative impact on the economy," he said.

The government is preparing amendments to Law 41, but these will require the approval of the National Assembly, which is by no means guaranteed.

"They're out of their minds," Mr 'Abd-al-'Aziz Sultan, head of the KEO engineering consultancy and former chief of Gulf Bank, a leading commercial bank, said of the government plan.

He doubted whether in practice the government could collect 10 per cent of the debts by September, underlining that "nobody's going to bring their money in from outside" the country.

He also warned that Kuwaiti shareholders who are not part of the bail-out scheme might start selling stock now, in the expectation of buying it back cheaply later, once an even partial liquidation of assets by debtors started driving down market prices.

One senior official, however, insisted that "the problem" can be dealt with.

"There will be no fire-sale of assets," he said. "I am confident that when push comes to shove those (debtors) will rearrange their positions."

The government's plan is to grant an extra three to four years grace for payments due in September, and stretch from 12 to 20 years repayments by smaller debtors.

Payment will be possible "in cash or in kind", said one official, scheduled in quarterly payments at commercial interest rates.

This means shares in listed companies or income-yielding assets such as property can be used to pay off debts, or more probably as collateral for loans from local banks anxious to boost private lending.

*New Issue of Marine Magazine Published

95P50105B Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 5 Apr 95 p 9

[FBIS Translated Text] A new issue of AL-MARSAH magazine has been published by the Arab Shipping

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Company. Its introduction mentions that the company intends to modernize its fleet and build 10 new, modern, huge container ships, each with a capacity of 4,000 standard containers. The editor-in-chief, 'Abd-al-Rahman, mentioned that the issue includes a history of the company since its inception in 1976, its goals, activities, capacity of ships, and a discussion of developments in new marine policies. The issue also contains an interview with the director general of the Kuwaiti Ports and a feature story on early civilizations in the Arabian Gulf, a biography of the agent for "Across the World Marine Services," developments on land and in servicing containers, and international shipping news in addition to information on the hosting by the company of the UN conference on shipping and trade.

Saudi Arabia

Royal Decree Reappoints Five Ministers

LD1605132795 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A royal decree has been issued which stipulates the renewal of the membership of five ministers to the civil service corps for another three years as from 23 Rajab 1415 H [early January 1995].

They are: Finance and National Economy Minister Muhammad al-'Ali Aba-al-Khayl; Labor and Social Affairs Minister Muhammad 'Ali al- Fayiz; Minister of Higher Education Dr. Khalid Bin-Muhammad al-'Anqari; 'Umar 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Taqih, the minister of state and chairman of the audit office; and Dr. Mitlab Bin 'Abdallah al-Nukhaythab, the chairman of the experts office.

The royal decree also announced the appointment for three years of two new members to the civil service corps as from 23 Rajab 1415 H. They are Dr. Bakr Bin 'Abdallah Bin Bakr, the director of King Fahd University for Oil and Minerals; and 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin 'Ali-al-Juraysi, the chairman of the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who is also the chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Yemen

Opposition Leader Discusses Domestic Issues

NC1205134695 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 8 May 95 pp 15-20

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, chairman of the Yemeni National Opposition Front and leader of the Sons of Yemen League, by Bassam 'Afifi, in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ['Afifi] President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has decided to ask Interpol to work for your extradition. What does this mean to you?

[Al-Jifri] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God and prayers on his prophet. First, I would like to thank AL-SHIRA', which always shows a just and objective interest in Arab issues in general and in our cause in particular. I consider the decision "the joke of the season," and, as we say, "the worst problems are those that make you laugh." I do not know who wants to arrest who. Is the aggressor asking for the arrest of the aggrieved? The other thing is that we know, the entire world knows, that Interpol chases criminals and deals with judicial crimes; it has nothing to do with political disputes. Our dispute with the Sanaa regime is political, but it also has a criminal aspect. As far as we are concerned it is a political dispute. But the regime is also involved in criminal cases, and there is much evidence that the regime is still perpetrating crimes: It is involved in assassinations. Our entire people know it. It is smuggling drugs worldwide. And the people know it. It is using state funds and weapons to create sedition among individuals and tribes and it is encouraging and exporting terrorism to the world.

God willing, the leaders of the regime in Sanaa will soon be tried for these crimes. If they flee, Interpol will find a case to handle.

['Afifi] Why this escalation now?

[Al-Jifri] [passage omitted] It is no exaggeration to say that the National Opposition Front has spread countrywide. We have our men and supporters in Yemen who publicly declare their rejection of the regime. We did not expect the popular response to be so swift or so great as it turned out to be throughout Yemen — the south, north, east, and west. This caused Front activity to expand. This is peaceful political activity by our men in Yemen. They distribute leaflets, cassettes, and statements on developments. The regime felt it was weak in the face of our activity so it wanted to export the problem to create a media clamor. [passage omitted]

['Afifi] What do you think of the Yemeni-Saudi memorandum of understanding?

[Al-Jifri] If you do not have something, you cannot give it, and those who are not true to their own peoples cannot be true to others. The only advantage of the memorandum is that it defused a bomb that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the regime in Sanaa planned to detonate. From this angle we blessed the memorandum, but we said the regime was not legitimately competent

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to implement it for the simple reason that it came about as the result of the war; so it is the illegitimate son of an illegitimate father.

['Afifi] Is it true that some sides in Yemen seriously oppose the memorandum? Or is this a maneuver to strengthen the position of the regime?

[Al-Jifri] Some voices truly oppose it as a matter of principle. Some other voices are raised as a government tactic. As for us, we say that the government, in the first place, is not qualified to seal agreements with others concerning our affairs. There must be comprehensive national reconciliation first.

['Afifi] How do you view the situation inside Yemen?

[Al-Jifri] Painful and sad.

['Afifi] What is happening in Hadhramaut? What is the role of the government and the role of the Islamic groups there?

[Al-Jifri] When we discuss the internal situation in Yemen, we talk about the political, security, and, primarily, economic conditions. As far as the economy is concerned, people are experiencing what they have never seen before. We sound the alarm to the whole world. We say that people have started selling their possessions; they have finished selling them. The middle class has almost disappeared. We will be left with two classes, one that survives under any circumstances, no matter how high the prices are, and these are government people and drug smuggling lords, and one that includes the rest of the people. If the situation continues like this for three months, six months at most, we will reach a situation where Yemen is "Somalized." This is serious; people will start stealing from each other, looting shops and houses, and killing to survive.

['Afifi] We have heard that something of this sort has already started.

[Al-Jifri] It happened on a small scale. But I say that it will spread and the whole country will be fragmented, not only into two parts, but into three, four, or more. This is serious. [passage omitted]

Security is very bad; the protectors of the law — the state and its men — are violating it; they are usurping people's money, land, and rights. So security is loose. The social situation is saddening. In this bad economic crisis values collapse and those who cannot secure their daily bread start losing their values. The political situation is much worse. There is no state, no order. The state has no budget, no policy. Before the war the budget was about 55 billion rials; now there is a 60-billion budget deficit and a complete balance-of-payments deficit. We are importing everything and we possess nothing. Also from the political aspect, our country has turned into a base for the export of terrorism. It is painful and sad that this is being done under the name of Islam, but Islam is innocent of the claims of those who say they are working for it. Islam is a religion of justice, reason, and mercy, not a religion of killing and terrorism. Regrettably, they put on the cloak of Islam, distorting its image. [passage omitted]

['Afifi] Who is ruling Yemen and what is the role of the president, Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, and the tribes?

[Al-Jifri] Yemen is ruled by a regime made up of three parts. The first is a factional and tribal wing from a certain area. The second is a military wing headed by certain individuals who are related. The third is a security wing—that is, intelligence. They call this security center the political center. These are the three sides that make up the triangle headed by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, may God guide and support him, because he is at the top of the pyramid, which is a prominent place that he cannot keep unless he clasps hands with someone. With one hand the president clasps Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, my God strengthen him, and with the other he grasps the hands of influential people. There is a small group — not more than 10 — who have real power and influence in the country. They are not known by name. All these things are governed by a large-scale trafficking operation, because, unfortunately, our country is being used for wide-scale and organized narcotics trafficking.

['Afifi] Could we say that there is an alliance and an allocation of roles?

[Al-Jifri] Yes.

['Afifi] Will the Islamists rule Yemen soon?

[Al-Jifri] What do you mean by the Islamists?

['Afifi] Extremists.

[Al-Jifri] No. Our people do not accept extremism. Extremists could support the authority, but only for a very limited time. The Sanaa regime uses this, telling the world: Help me, for I am the safety valve against Islamic extremism. I don't trust them, I am making things difficult for them, etc. This is not true, because the regime supports them. The regime has given them money, permitted them to operate here, and allowed them to share power.

['Afifi] So we can say that the roles are agreed on?

[Al-Jifri] Of course, and the regime created it.

['Afifi] What are your plans? Do you intend to declare war, form an umbrella political movement, or set up a government in exile?

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[Al-Jifri] First, we are against fighting. We have cooperated with the brothers and colleagues against the war and against the forces in Sanaa only because we reject war. Thus, we reject violence and bloodshed and do not want to get our people involved in new bloodshed. We believe that armed force is one method of nationalist action, but it should be pursued only if all other methods are exhausted. In our case, we have not exhausted all methods and we have a real opportunity to create a comprehensive popular movement to overthrow the regime. This is part of our complete program, which contains specific goals and stages. It aims to pressure the regime into accepting an overall and real reconciliation that achieves a balance favorable to country and creates accord among and justice for all factions in all areas, within the frameworks and concepts of Islam. Unless the regime accepts this, we will continue trying to overthrow it, but without using weapons. I believe this is possible because we have reached a point where we do not need to convince people that this regime is bad. Everyone is already convinced of that. Actually we need to persuade people not to carry arms. Everyone in our country wants to use weapons, but we tell them not to. We are trying to talk the youth there into not using arms, but they are not happy.

['Afifi] Could we say that there were past experiments in which arms were used but failed to accomplish anything?

[Al-Jifri] Exactly. And there are many experiments in which secret, civilized, peaceful, and organized political action has succeeded, because it needs to be secret. As for a government in exile, we definitely are not thinking about that, at least for now.

['Afifi] How are your relations with the other political forces in the country; that is, the Socialists, the tribes, the moderate Islamic opposition, the independents, and former President 'Ali Nasir?

[Al-Jifri] Our relations with the Socialist brothers, beside whom we fought during the war, are good. As for the other Socialist brothers in Sanaa, our relations with them are neither negative nor positive. We have heard that they are flirting with 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the regime. He can bring out two or three of them and they can announce a new coalition with him for national reconciliation. But we believe this would not be a reconciliation but a patch-up job involving something that cannot be patched up. There was a coalition before the war and it did not work, so how can it work now after all what has happened? As for the tribes, our relations with them are the same as his [not further specified] relations with them. Anybody who calls for moderate Islam is with us and we are with him. We talk to brother 'Ali Nasir on the telephone occasionally. Judging by what we read in the press, he has reached a point where he believes a miscalculation has been made, and I trust his intelligence.

['Afifi] What about your Arab and international relations, particularly with the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] members?

[Al-Jifri] The Arab relations, including those with the GCC, are generally good. There is an understanding of our cause, although there is nothing they or the other Arab states can do. They sympathize with us, but they are governed by international relations. The countries of the world and international organizations sympathize with us, but they are all governed by diplomatic and international relations. [passage omitted]

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UN Team Inspects Chemical Weapons Materials

NC1705092695 Paris AFP in English 0829 GMT 17 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, May 17 (AFP) — Iraq failed to provide a team of UN experts with a full account of missing materials which can be used to make chemical or biological weapons, the head of the team said Wednesday [17 May].

Charles Duelfer, vice chairman of the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq, said at the end of a four-day mission that UNSCOM head Rolf Ekeus would now travel to Baghdad on May 29 to try to obtain more answers.

Duelfer, an American who met for three days with the head of Iraq's military industrialization organization, General 'Amir Rashid, described his mission as "productive" and "partially successful."

He and two chemical experts arrived in Baghdad on Sunday to investigate discrepancies in Baghdad's records of chemicals used to make VX, a combat nerve gas, UN officials say.

In a report last month after his last visit to Baghdad in March, Ekeus said that "precursors for the production of at least 200 to 250 tons of VX cannot be definitely accounted for."

However, Iraq, which has acknowledged that its scientists worked on VX from September 1987 to September 1988, said it had satisfied UN concerns about all aspects of its chemical program and complained the file was being reopened.

Ekeus also said two months ago that Iraq had failed to account for 17 tonnes of growth media that could be used in germ warfare.

The state-controlled Iraqi news media accused the United States of seeking to maintain the sanctions imposed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait and said UNSCOM was yielding to US pressure.

Further on Possible Cabinet Reshuffle, 'Aziz Status

MM1605145595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 May 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "'Aziz Not Attending Cabinet Meetings; Sa'dun Hammadi To Return in Cabinet Reshuffle"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Informed political sources, citing Iraqi travelers who left Baghdad recently, say that the Iraqis were surprised by the decision to maintain the sanctions against Iraq and they held their leadership responsible for this because of its failure to comply with UN resolutions and its failure to respond to beneficial international initiatives. They add that the leadership appeared to encourage the embargo as if to further punish the Iraqi people themselves. The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Iraqi leadership's failure to cooperate with the UN authorities in tackling the issue of the embargo brought down Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, who has been stripped of the responsibility for that issue in favor of Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf. The sources said that 'Aziz is boycotting the cabinet meetings at a time of increasing speculations about a cabinet reshuffle that would bring back Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi in a new cabinet formation. [passage omitted]

Ramadan Leads Economic Delegation to Indonesia

JN1505113295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 May (INA) — Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has left Baghdad for Indonesia. Ramadan is leading a large economic delegation on a visit that will last several days.

In a pre-departure statement to INA, Ramadan said he will convey an oral message from President Saddam Husayn to Indonesian President Suharto. The message expresses President Saddam Husayn's greetings and the appreciation of the Iraqi leadership and people for Indonesia's fair stands toward Iraq at international forums. The message also stresses Iraq's serious desire to promote bilateral ties in all fields and support the Nonaligned Movement to enable it to achieve its peaceful and just objectives in the world and to oppose hostile colonialist policies.

The vice president said he will discuss with Indonesian officials prospects for developing bilateral ties in the areas of industry, trade, and oil. He expressed hope that the visit will result in signing agreements for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation to expand bilateral relations now and in the future.

Taha Yasin Ramadan added that he will brief Indonesian officials on the dimensions of the aggressive U.S. policy toward Iraq and its fabrication of malicious pretexts to maintain the blockade, after Iraq has fulfilled its obligations. Most Security Council members think that Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 should be implemented and that the oil embargo should be lifted, he added.

The delegation comprises several officials from the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Trade, the Ministry of Industry, and the Ministry of Oil.

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Paper Rejects Egyptian Remarks, 'Verbal Sympathy'

JN1605161495 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 1 May 95 p 2

[From the "Standpoint" column by Sabri Hammadi: "Some People's Sympathy and the Required Arab Stand"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It does not mean much; in fact, it does not mean anything at all to us the Iraqis, who have been besieged for five years, when an Arab official feigns sympathy with us and shows understanding of the conditions we are experiencing under the unfair blockade, and at the same time reiterates the U.S. viewpoint about continuing the blockade on Iraq and repeats, without being extra careful, Albright's and Hannay's claims about the Iraqi position on the ominous American Resolution 986.

Indeed, it is not important or worthwhile what Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said in Doha about world sympathy with the conditions of the Iraqi people, as long as he believes that "lifting the blockade on Iraq depends on Iraqi officials following Baghdad's rejection of UN Security Council Resolution 986."

We are very sure that the Egyptian foreign minister cannot be ignorant of the fact that the continuation of the blockade on Iraq, and, therefore, the continued suffering of the Iraqi people, is essentially a U.S. decision and that Resolution 986 is a mean U.S. resolution from A to Z which is aimed at circumventing sincere international efforts to implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 which calls for lifting the embargo on Iraqi oil exports. However, we also know that the Egyptian regime's relations with the U.S. Administration and the role which that regime has undertaken on the Arab level do not allow 'Amr Musa to go beyond expressing mere verbal sympathy with the Iraqi people.

If the Egyptian foreign minister does not know why Iraq has rejected Resolution 986, we do not mind telling him that this American resolution contains conditions and restrictions which violate Iraq's sovereignty, threaten the unity of its people and territory, permit interference in its internal affairs, and usurp its right to dispose of its national wealth in any way it sees fit. More serious than that, the resolution is essentially aimed at continuing the blockade on Iraq by obstructing the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. Now, does 'Amr Musa consider it in the interest of the Iraqi people to accept this unfair resolution?

Any Arab official who sympathizes with the Iraqi people and claims that he wants to alleviate their suffering is called upon to thoroughly examine the provisions of Resolution 986 in order to discover that there are conditions and provisions in this American resolution which are humiliating and harmful to Iraq. But for an official to make the courteous statements called for by a transient situation in order to avoid pan-Arab censure, his statements in such a situation do not mean much; and in fact, they do more harm than good.

The required correct Arab stand toward the unjust blockade on Iraq is the concentration of all Arab and international efforts and endeavors calling on the Security Council to implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, especially since Iraq has fulfilled all its basic obligations under Security Council resolutions, especially with regard to Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 and not calling on Iraq to accept the mean American Resolution 986.

Mere verbal sympathy does not benefit the Iraqi people and does not alleviate their suffering. The responsible and brave pan-Arab stand is the one which calls for the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. It is this implementation which will end the Iraqi people's suffering; that is if their suffering indeed concerns Arab officials!

Polish Delegation Holds Talks With Ministers

Meets Finance Minister on Blockade

JN1605203795 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 26 Apr 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir yesterday met with Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Jerzy Kaminski and the members of his delegation who are currently visiting Iraq.

During this meeting, the minister reviewed the effects of the unfair blockade on the steadfast Iraqi people and the suffering which has been caused to children, women, and elders due to shortages of food, medicine, and basic needs.

The discussion during the meeting dealt with various aspects of cooperation between the two countries in the financial field and the means of developing this cooperation for the common benefit of both friendly peoples.

Reviews Ties With Agriculture Minister

JN1605084795 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 26 Apr 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, Agriculture Minister Khalid 'Abd-al-Mun'im Rashid received Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Jerzy Kaminski and the members of his delegation.

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Discussion during this meeting dealt with the possibility of developing bilateral cooperation in the agricultural field as well as supplying certain agricultural requirements, such as pesticides and seeds.

The meeting was attended by the Polish ambassador in Baghdad.

RCC Decree Punishes Farmers Failing To Deliver Grain

JN1605094395 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 23 Apr 95 p 4

[Revolution Command Council Decree No. 40 of 19 April]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate

Republic of Iraq

Revolution Command Council [RCC]

Decree No. 40 dated 19 Dhi al-Qa'idah 1415 Hegira corresponding to 19 April

Decree

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph (A) of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council decrees as follows:

First: 1. Purchase of wheat, barley, rice, maize, and sunflower seeds is hereby confined to the state at prices which are fixed by the state.

2. The cabinet may add other agricultural crops to the items mentioned in Paragraph (1) of this clause.

Second: Purchase committees in the administrative units — governorate, district, and subdistrict — shall issue a warning to any defaulter, who exploits agricultural land in his capacity as proprietor, lease holder, or contractor but fails to deliver the quantity required within 10 days of notification.

Third: If the defaulter who has been warned does not deliver the required quantity during the period set in Clause "Second" above, the following actions shall be taken against him:

1. The committee shall fine the defaulter, who sells less than 100 percent and up to 75 percent of the required quantity, a sum equivalent to double the value of the remaining quantity according to the commercial price at the time of the sale. If he fails to pay the fine, he shall be detained until he pays.

2. The committee shall fine the defaulter, who sells less than 75 percent and up to 50 percent of the required quantity, a sum which is equivalent to double the value of the remaining quantity according to the commercial price at the time of the sale and also imprison him for a period of not less than one year and not more than three years. He shall not be released until he pays the fine.

3. The central committee shall fine the defaulter, who sells less than 50 percent of the required quantity, a sum which is equivalent to double the value of the remaining quantity according to the commercial price at the time of the sale, imprison him for a period of not less than three years and also terminate his lease contract with the state. He shall not be released until he pays the fine.

Fourth: 1. The chairman of the Harvest and Marketing Committee is hereby authorized to inspect at any time any place, depot, or building, including homes, in order to seize the items covered by the provisions of this decree.

2. Without prejudice to the provisions of Clause "Third" of this decree, if the items covered under the provisions of this decree are seized during inspection, the Harvest and Marketing Committee shall confiscate them and deliver them to the receiving centers belonging to the competent ministry.

Fifth: 1. Forty percent of the value of the items which are confiscated under Paragraph (2) of Clause "Fourth" of this decree shall be shared equally, according to the commercial price at the time of the sale, between the Harvest and Marketing Committee in the administrative unit in which the confiscation has taken place and those responsible for carrying out the confiscation.

2. In case the items which are covered by the provisions of this decree have been discovered on the basis of information given by a citizen, the latter shall be granted 50 percent of the ratio stipulated in Paragraph (1) of this clause and the remaining 50 percent shall be shared equally between the committee and those responsible for carrying out the confiscation.

Sixth: The competent ministers shall carry out the provisions of this decree.

Seventh: The amended RCC Decree No. 136 of 16 May 1991 is hereby canceled.

Eighth: This decree shall be carried out as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] RCC Chairman Saddam Husayn

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Rabin, Others on Talks With Syrians, U.S. Role

Rabin 'Not Happy' With U.S. Mediation

TA1605160195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin again expressed frustration before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee over the lack of direct contact with Syria, saying that with American mediation, it is difficult to clarify important issues directly. Rabin said that while he expects a visit to the region soon by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, he does not expect the direct talks between the Israeli and Syrian chiefs of staff to resume until the second half of next month, if at all.

The prime minister said that within hours or the next few days he expects to receive a report on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. More from reporter David Ze'ev:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says he is not ready to budge in his opposition to equal buffer zones on either side of the new border with Syria in a peace treaty. Quoted by a Knesset official at a closed-door meeting, Rabin said he accepts mutual arrangements concerning securing the border itself and on early warning systems, but on the geographic issue of the areas restricting military activity he will not give in even if the talks with Syria would fall apart because of it.

[Rabin] We have to keep our vital interests, and therefore, we want peace. We are ready to make concessions for peace, but there are limits that we cannot go beyond. And therefore, we want peace not under every condition and every price that the other side demands.

[Ze'ev] Rabin said he is not happy with the way the talks are now being conducted — in other words, through the Americans. He was asked about reports of new American proposals to the Syrians:

[Rabin] To the best of my knowledge, the United States operates on the basis of not putting American paper and trying to talk to each one of the two sides to come with proposals, but they would not put it as an American proposal before the consent of the two sides to the ideas that are brought by the United States to them. [sentence as heard]

[Ze'ev] But the prime minister told the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that deputy head of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff had prepared a position paper backing the Israeli position that defending against a sudden attack is not possible through aerial surveillance alone. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1000 GMT on 16 May adds: "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says Israel's talks with the Syrians are in effect at an impasse. Addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee this morning, Rabin said Israel would not accept the Syrian demand for geographical parity in the proposed security arrangements. If the Syrians did not show flexibility, there would be no progress, the prime minister said."]

[Reporting on Rabin's remarks after the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting, Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 16 May adds: "The prime minister denied that an Israeli personality had met with the Syrian president's son." Rabin says in a recorded passage: "Israel has always been ready to hold direct meetings — both clandestine and overt — at any level and on a reciprocal basis. Syria has always been and still is the one that refuses. That is why, unfortunately, no such meetings have been held."

[IDF Radio further reports that "Rabin announced that a number of issues concerning elections in the territories are still pending, and that a new census of Arab residents would be conducted in preparation of the elections. The Judaea and Samaria census will be done by Palestinian teachers and the East Jerusalem one by the Central Bureau of Statistics. I hope, Rabin told committee members, that by the time we meet again, I will be able to report that no institution bearing the name of the Palestinian Authority is situated in Jerusalem any longer."]

'Sources' Critical of U.S. Team

TA1705112695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 May 95 pp A1, A2

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Secretary of State Warren Christopher has informed Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' he does not see any point in another shuttle mission between Jerusalem and Damascus until he obtains Syria's reaction to the American formula. The United States has proposed that the Israeli-Syrian security arrangements be determined while keeping the geographic conditions on the Golan Heights in mind. [passage omitted]

Israeli sources yesterday criticized the members of the U.S. peace team for "their efforts to show an achievement" by leaks to the press about purported "bridging proposals," despite the fact that this does not

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have the backing of the President and the secretary of state.

For example, the sources noted the fact that Dennis Ross, head of the U.S. peace team, said in a briefing to correspondents that the United States is "submitting proposals," not merely airing ideas, whereas Christopher has said the time has not come for submitting U.S. proposals, adding this will be done only at the request of the sides.

New Trend in U.S. Efforts Seen

TA1605084595 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 May 95 pp 1, 19

[Report by Washington correspondent Hayim Shibi, political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, and Smadar Peri]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher may travel to Israel and Syria as early as next week in a bid to resume the talks between the officers of both countries. This comes about from contacts held between Jerusalem and Washington over the past 24 hours.

Meanwhile, the Clinton administration presented the Syrian foreign minister with a detailed U.S. proposal aimed at "closing the gaps" between Israel and Syria with regard to the security arrangements on the Golan. The administration intensified its involvement and presented proposals of its own. This is not yet "a U.S. document," but al-Shar' will be flying back to Damascus with a straightforward proposal for al-Asad.

A senior U.S. official told YEDI'OT AHARONOT: "Both sides are asking us to pressure and intercede with the other side to make it budge from its intransigent position."

Officials in Jerusalem see a new trend on the part of the U.S. Administration: An attempt to influence Israeli decisionmakers through Israeli public opinion. The message the Americans are trying to convey is that an agreement with Syria is attainable, that Damascus has made quite enough gestures toward Israel, and that it is now Jerusalem's turn to make a decision.

The logic behind the U.S. actions, which was apparently formulated after Rabin's visit to Washington, is as follows: Although the United States believes it is now Israel's turn to make gestures toward Syria, Washington does not want to exert direct pressure on Jerusalem for the simple reason that President Clinton desperately needs the Jewish vote in his bid to get reelected. Therefore, the administration will try to influence Israel and soften its position not through direct pressure but by influencing Israeli public opinion and persuading the Israelis that a peace agreement with Syria is within reach.

The second message to the Israeli public will be: President Clinton's time to deal with the peace process in the Middle East is only until next fall. At that point the U.S. President will have to devote most of his time to domestic issues in order to improve his chances of getting reelected.

Despite the fact that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said during his visit to Washington that the United States should not put forth proposals of its own, TISHRIN, the Syrian regime's organ, yesterday called on Washington to bring pressure to bear on Israel to make it budge from its positions.

As for the content of the U.S. proposals: They underscore the Israeli principle that any "erosion in security" — in the context of a withdrawal on the Golan — should be rewarded by other means. The proposals concerning "military confidence-building measures" stress the presence of early-warning stations on the Golan.

Christopher specifically stressed yesterday that the sides had not yet reached agreement on four key points in the negotiations: the duration of the withdrawal, the scope of the withdrawal, the security arrangements, and the essence of peace.

Our correspondent Smadar Peri adds: Officials in Jerusalem yesterday denied a report on Radio Monte Carlo that alleged that Dr. Bashshar al-Asad, the Syrian president's son, had recently met secretly with Israeli representatives. "Somebody is trying 'to burn' President al-Asad's son. It is a journalistic canard," the Jerusalem sources said.

Peres Interviewed on Syrian Talks, Jerusalem Issue

TA1705082595 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 May 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, on his way to Ben-Gurion Airport for France, by Mikha Friedman on 17 May — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Friedman] Warren Christopher's mission to the Middle East might have failed before even starting, because the rumors say he will not be coming.

[Peres] I would not jump to conclusions because the Syrians still have to reply to the proposal presented to them and they might reconsider. They have to decide whether they want the negotiations to collapse.

[Friedman] What is the new U.S. bridging proposal the Syrians are turning down?

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[Peres] The U.S. bridging proposal cannot contradict the Israeli position and tries not to contradict the Syrian position. In my view, it is now more an issue of goodwill than wording. The Syrians cannot negotiate when they constantly insist that their position be totally accepted.

[Friedman] We are discussing security arrangements, which the Syrians want to be equal and balanced, and Israel says....

[Peres, interrupting] I do not want to go into the wording itself.

[Friedman] Anyway, Faruq al-Shar' said publicly that the Israelis want merely parity in security arrangements while the Syrians insist on equality and balance.

[Peres] That cannot be done under the present conditions. It was also the case with the precedents. What is the aim? Is it to pretend or to assure the security of both states, Syria and Israel?

[Friedman] In fact, we are saying that in the final settlement, the Syrians will have the entire Golan Heights, giving them a clear strategic advantage, which must be balanced by deep demilitarization on their territory, and this will not be balanced by equal demilitarization on our side. Is that the meaning?

[Peres] I am not prepared to go into it. I would only like to say that those who talk about total equality have to put at Israel's disposal a second Golan Heights at the same height. Can the Syrians do that?

[Friedman] There is no such thing. So what is your conclusion?

[Peres] It is that we have to forget about all sorts of pretentious formulas and reach an understanding and compromise.

[Friedman] You are saying that if we come down from the Golan Heights, we have to come down from all sorts of pretentious formulas.

[Peres] You are constantly enriching my words. I am more humble.

[Friedman] You know why I am provoking you.

[Peres] Of course I know.

[Friedman] Because it is unclear why you have recently been talking quite a lot about a withdrawal to the international border. First you said it to [Israel TV's political correspondent] Gadi Sukenik and last week you discussed it with President Mubarak.

[Peres] First, it is my duty to explain what the other side is demanding, which is more than Egypt demanded. Second, we cannot ignore the past because it lives and serves as a precedent for the current situation.

[Friedman] But it is a decision by a former government, which was repealed in 1967, soon after it was approved.

[Peres] That is true. I also said it was a decision by a previous government.

[Friedman] So you are discussing history.

[Peres] If you like to put it that way.

[Friedman] Not only the Republicans have put the Jerusalem issue on the agenda with their proposed legislation to relocate the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, but Bill Clinton has apparently also contributed. The United States accepted the Arab request to put Jerusalem at the top of today's agenda in the steering committee of the multilateral talks in Switzerland. What do you have to say about that?

[Peres] That is surprising because Jerusalem is not part of the interim agreement. There is agreement on that by all sides. The steering committee is not above the agreement between the sides. The Jerusalem issue has been ignited from various directions and under a combination of circumstances. Anybody who tries to deal with one issue, faces another. The land seizures, the Security Council, the Arab League, and the debate in the U.S. Senate are why Jerusalem has made the headlines, and I hope we will succeed in returning it to its proper place.

[Friedman] You mentioned the land expropriations. There are those who analyze Sunday's cabinet vote by saying that Peres supports the current land confiscations because he wants to appear to belong to the mainstream since he is preparing for the primaries against Rabin.

[Peres] Why justify myself? The rumors show meanness. My position on Jerusalem is steadfast. I said in the Labor faction meeting that if I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my left hand, as well as my right hand, wither!

[Friedman] The analysis is that you are moving from the left to the middle.

[Peres] I am not going anywhere. My position on Jerusalem remains unchanged. My positions are serious. I say what my red lines are and Jerusalem is definitely a red line.

Netanyahu: Rabin Agreed To Demilitarize Part of Galilee

TA1705070295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 17 May 95

[Telephone interview with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu by Me'ir Einstein; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Einstein] The prime minister has said clearly that Israel will not accept any proposal

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for geographic equality with Syria within the framework of security arrangements. Do you accept that statement?

[Netanyahu] Definitely not. The public does not know what is behind those words. It does not involve a single Israeli withdrawal, but two withdrawals, to which the Rabin government has agreed. First, it agreed to a total withdrawal from the Golan Heights. There is no dispute over that. Rabin gave al-Asad that and I believe we all know it. What is now involved is an additional Israeli withdrawal; withdrawing the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] or thinning out the forces from part of the Galilee. The dispute with Syria now is over the depth of the thinning out or the partial withdrawal of the IDF in the Galilee. It is the next step in a hard-to-believe series of capitulations. Sometimes when I get up in the morning and hear the pretense of being firm I also hear that the government has given up yet something else while saying it will not yield on the next move. We are retreating from one position after the other. What is now the issue is to what extent the IDF will thin out and demilitarize part of the Galilee in northern Israel. Quite unbelievable.

[Einstein] Knesset Member Netanyahu, you have already said that if you come to power in next year's elections you will not honor the agreement with the Palestinians. What about an agreement with Syria, if it is reached by then?

[Netanyahu] An agreement will be conditional anyway. I find it hard to believe the wavering position of the government, which really wants peace at any price. Rabin says it is not at any price. That means he has still not given up Haifa and its neighborhoods, but he has agreed to the principle of demilitarization of the Galilee or parts of it, and the deployment of an early warning station on Mount Meron. President al-Asad must, however, know that such an agreement is meaningless because it requires the approval of the nation either in a referendum or in general elections. I am convinced that the people do not want to give up their security, do not want to give up the Golan Heights, do not want a Syrian presence in the Galilee, and definitely insist on the principle that the Golan Heights — where we have deep historic roots, where we set up 32 splendid settlements — is vital to our national existence. I am certain the people will not accept this path of vacillation and capitulation. Hafiz al-Asad must know that he is negotiating with a government that does not have a mandate to give up either the Golan or the Galilee.

[Einstein] I wanted to ask you about that. I assume you believe you will become prime minister after the coming elections. Do you now call on al-Asad to hold up the negotiations with the Rabin government since you will be the next prime minister; therefore, he should be patient and negotiate with you?

[Netanyahu] He might understand that anyway.

[Einstein] Do you regard his abstinence as meaning that he is waiting to negotiate with you?

[Netanyahu] He has nothing to lose because he knows that all his demands will be met by this government. He is receiving the entire Golan Heights and demilitarization in the Galilee. Rabin is posing as though he is standing firm, but he has already yielded on the principle of a full unrestricted IDF presence in the Galilee. In other words, al-Asad knows that any demand he raises with this government, it accepts. He also knows, however, that in the final analysis, the public has to agree to the price of those concessions. As a shrewd observer of Israel's domestic scene, I know that the people are not crazy and will not cave in. They will not agree to take that path and will reject this government's proposal, just as they will reject the entire government and have it replaced.

[Einstein] To conclude, I would like to ask you whether you had talks with Ehud Baraq recently.

[Netanyahu] No, I did not talk with Baraq. I assume we will meet one of these days when we celebrate the military unit in which we both served.

[Einstein] Do you not have any intention of suggesting to him that he join the Likud?

[Netanyahu] The Likud is open to all, anybody can join, there is no need for private invitations. The door is open to all.

[Later in the same newsreel, Einstein interviews live on the telephone Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, who is in Montreux, Switzerland, for the multilateral talks. Commenting on Netanyahu's remarks, Beilin says: "Netanyahu, who always knows everything better than others, already knows that all of al-Asad's demands have been accepted and that the Galilee will be demilitarized. He should, however, remind his listeners, possibly with pride, that it was his party that made peace with Egypt, that it was Menahem Begin who returned territory three times the size of Israel — all of the Sinai — and demilitarized the Negev. The people might not know it, but contrary to Netanyahu's remarks — which are partly the figment of his imagination and not facts — the demilitarization of the Negev has been a fact for many years."]

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'Sources': Japanese Troops To Be Stationed on Golan

TA1605165195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Japan is planning to send an army unit to participate in the UN observer force stationed on the Golan Heights. This is according to a Qol Yisra'el reporter quoting Israeli sources.

The decision to send Japanese troops has been sharply criticized by the Socialist Party in Japan.

Rabin on U.S. 'Indignation' Over 'Discriminatory' Tax

TA1505082795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 May 95 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky and Jose Rosenfeld]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel must be cognizant of the growing political opposition in the U.S. to the annual $1.2 billion civilian aid it receives, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reportedly told the cabinet yesterday.

Rabin noted that despite complaints that the U.S. is subsidizing Israel's "welfare state," there nevertheless remains broad support by members of Congress for maintaining $1.8 billion in military assistance to Israel, despite the antiforeign aid mood there.

While there has been public endorsement both by the Clinton administration and leading members on Capitol Hill for maintaining the current aid level of $3 billion for the upcoming fiscal year, members of Congress have privately been warning Israeli officials that this cannot be maintained indefinitely.

Some Washington sources say Rabin will have to consider reaching an agreement whereby the U.S. phases out the $1.2 billion of civilian aid over the next few years.

Some on Capitol Hill, such as Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Jesse Helms, say civilian aid can be swapped for debt forgiveness, but others are skeptical.

During a recent visit by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, a leading congressman charged him with evading tough questions on how Israel was going to wean itself away from U.S. aid. Exacerbating U.S. concern about aid levels to Israel is indignation in Washington over what it considers Israel's discriminatory attitudes towards the purchase of U.S. cars here, Rabin indicated. While looking at Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, Rabin said "nothing infuriates the U.S. more about Israel" than the high taxation of U.S. cars here.

In response, Shohat promised to "check" the current practice.

Officials in the U.S. told Rabin they view the $3 billion in U.S. aid to Israel as essentially helping offset Israel's trade deficit with Europe, which stands at $7.3 billion.

The officials believe it is in effect subsidizing Israelis' purchases of European cars, which constitute a portion of the deficit.

Relatively few U.S. cars are sold here since purchase taxes are based on engine size, and U.S. cars have larger engines than their European counterparts. Therefore, the U.S. wants Israel to adjust its tax regulations so that Israelis could buy more U.S. automobiles.

According to Treasury officials, most of the provisions which discriminate against larger-engined American cars have been eliminated. Since 1993, the government imposes a 95-percent purchase tax on cars regardless of engine size.

Two 'Senior' Fatah Activists Detained in Jerusalem

TA1405145995 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Two senior Fatah activists in the Jerusalem area were detained today in a security forces raid on the village of al-Nabi Samu'il, north of Jerusalem. This was said by Palestinian sources today. According to local villagers, a curfew was imposed on the village during which searches were carried out in the local committee building. During the searches documents that may have served for preparing the infrastructure for elections in the Jerusalem area were confiscated.

Peres Discusses Peace Process, Personal Plans

TA1205154295 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (SHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 12 May 95 pp 4, 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Hemi Shalev; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] "All my life, nothing has ever come easy for me," said Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, shrugging off the difficulties and the criticism leveled at him and at the peace process he, to a large extent, has been leading. Despite the stalemate in the talks with Syria and the disputes with the Palestinians, the charged atmosphere regarding Jerusalem and the protests in the Arab world, Peres has no doubt that the government will overcome the difficulties and that he will continue "to pave the way."

Nevertheless, Peres has obviously grown impatient about answering certain questions. Questions such as

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whether the Oslo process has failed or whether the Casablanca conference was a mistake merit only terse and curt replies. Peres' supporters say he adheres to the vision of a new Middle East and will yet attain it; his critics say he does not allow facts to get in his way.

As always, Peres goes to great lengths not to criticize Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin or the government, saying: "I do not always have to say everything I think." Nevertheless, a critical tone about the government's handling of the land expropriations in Jerusalem and the attitude toward the Palestinian Authority runs through the interview. He reserves himself the option to run for the leadership of Labor, but claims that he has not yet made up his mind. Any decision he makes now will only lead to a dispute that will spell the end of the peace process, he says. "And I am the last person who would do such a thing," he adds.

[Shalev] You have warned on several occasions against raising the issue of Jerusalem on the political agenda too prematurely. This has now happened, and not through the Arabs' initiative.

[Peres] We certainly had no intention of raising the issue of Jerusalem at this point. When the decisions about daily life in Jerusalem were made we may have failed to estimate that the Arabs would inflate the issue as they have. I told both the Egyptians and the Palestinians: We are in daily contact. If you had a problem with the land expropriations, you should have just picked up the phone. Why did you have to go to the Arab League and the Security Council before you ascertained the facts?

Of course, one can always fall prey to flights of imagination and media hyperbole, but that was not the intention. In my opinion, we should have better explained what we were doing.

[Shalev] The question is whether the scenario you cautioned against is now coming true, seeing that the land expropriation has been exacerbated by the issues of relocating the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem and the measures against Orient House.

[Peres] We will bring all those issues back to their true dimensions. We are the ones who run Jerusalem. We take the Arabs into consideration, but we do not cooperate with them on the issue of Jerusalem. Until deliberations start on the permanent arrangement, Jerusalem is our business, not part of the autonomy. Nabil Sha'th asked to set up a committee to deal with the issue of Jerusalem. I told him we have a channel to deal with problems in Jerusalem, but not to deal with Jerusalem as a problem.

Had we acted a little bit different and been more considerate of the housing needs of the Arabs perhaps the picture would have been different. However, this was not done and now we must amend the situation. They, too, have legitimate housing rights, bear children, and get married. A city council or a government cannot say it is responsible only for the Jews. The city council is responsible for all the residents of Jerusalem. It must meet the needs of everybody, not just of the Jews.

[Shalev] Which means that you think not enough was done in previous years.

[Peres] Look, I do not care about history as long as somebody does not prove to me that history can be changed. My profession is not to record events but to make a difference.

[Shalev] You have probably heard the argument that you are not sufficiently enthusiastic about the possibility of relocating the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

[Peres] We are in favor of relocating all embassies to Jerusalem, including the U.S. Embassy. We are against interfering in the internal arguments in those countries, including the United States.

[Shalev] Do you think this is the right time for such a move?

[Peres] Any time is the right time. As far as I am concerned, if it could have happened 10 years ago it would have been better.

[Shalev] Are the protests in the Arab world and the "threats" of Jordan and Morocco an indication of the strength or of the fragility of the peace process?

[Peres] The strength of the peace process lies in the fact that there is no alternative to it. The military threat has been tried and failed. The coalition or strategy to bring Israel down no longer exists. On the other hand, just as it has led to a split in our ranks, peace has also caused a rift in the Arab world. The Arab world could have rallied around the Palestinian issue in one of two ways: either by helping the Palestinians — which they did not do, or by protesting on behalf of the Palestinians, thus turning the Palestinian cause into a protest instead of seeking a solution. There is an advantage in the latter since it is noncommittal. Once there used to be a lot of Arab money to finance violence. Why is there no Arab money now to support peace?

[Shalev] So what is your conclusion from the events of the last few days?

[Peres] My conclusion is that there are difficulties that must be overcome. I never thought it would be a piece of cake. Moreover, one must distinguish between words and reality. Words come easy and know no limit.

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[Shalev] You told Knesset Member Beni Begin that his late father would have given back the entire Golan Heights had President al-Asad come with al-Sadat to Israel. The prime minister praises the late Menahem Begin for giving back the entire Sinai Peninsula and uprooting all the settlements. You talk in riddles rather than loud and clear. Why?

[Peres] I do not think we should say anything beyond that. I do not think we must please the Israeli public every morning. We are neither an evening newspaper nor a morning one. We do not have to supply banner headlines, either in red or black ink. That is not our business. The public will judge us according to the results of our actions. Not everything can be explained every day. Our newspaper comes out once every four years.

What angers me is that al-Asad would really have received the same as al-Sadat. All the Revisionist leaders would have justified it then, just as they justify the Camp David Accords. Our main argument with the Likud is about what is the primary danger: Iran's nuclear effort or Syria's jet fighters. Were Syria the sole problem, we would need to keep every hill everywhere. However, I do not see Syria having the capability to attack us. It does not have the coalition or arms to that end, and this is not likely to change in the future. However, we must draw Syria into the process to be able to deal with Muslim fundamentalism. We do not need Syria just to make peace with Syria, but to prevent the Middle East from falling into the blazing fire of radical fundamentalism. This cannot be done by political regurgitation. We perceive the Middle East differently from the Likud, both in terms of a more positive outlook and in our choice of the threat.

[Shalev] The papers say that the Americans have put forth bridging proposals between us and the Syrians.

[Peres] I will not comment on it. The negotiations with Syria have discrete aspects, and I am not prepared to comment on them.

[Shalev] Not even in principle?

[Peres] It is not a matter of principle, it is information.

[Shalev] What is the deadline for attaining an agreement with Syria?

[Peres] In my opinion, up to the last day of the government's tenure. Why should I impose any limits? Can an agreement be attained? The answer is yes. Based on what we have today? I do not know. The Syrians' pace is not of an Arabian horse but of an Australian turtle.

[Shalev] You said the level of the talks must be upgraded because a minister can afford to make mistakes while an ambassador cannot.

[Peres] What are mistakes? Anything that deviates from conventional wisdom; in other words, trying new ideas. A minister can afford creativity in the negotiations. I myself have had the opportunity to do this dozens of times. I do not need a cabinet resolution to put forth a creative idea; I can try it out. This is the difference.

[Shalev] The general belief today is that an agreement with the Palestinians cannot be attained by 1 July. Do you still fervently believe that not only is this possible but also feasible?

[Peres] Yes. I do not understand why I should adapt myself to what people say. I have my own assessments. The same happened with Oslo. Do you know anybody who wants to go back to Gaza? This means that even when we were in Oslo those who said that we should stay in Gaza did not actually mean it.

[Shalev] Are you satisfied with the attitude of the government of which you are a member toward the Palestinians? They claim that in certain respects the occupation has not left Gaza.

[Peres] As a result of Oslo there is a precise division of responsibility and authority. We say we have absolute responsibility over security matters. But if you impose a closure in the name of security, this is also a political act. We are asking the Palestinians to fight Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and they reply: With such hunger, how can we fight? Obviously, the solution is to enable the autonomy in Gaza to run their own affairs. We tell them: create more security and then there will be fewer closures. But, as we all know, this is easier said than done. The situation is plagued with contradictions and we must rack our brains to find solutions.

[Shalev] Recently you have been clashing with people you call "experts," including the Intelligence Branch's assessments about the Casablanca conference.

[Peres] I have simply never encountered any experts on the future. If you find me experts on the future I will speak to them. I say that most of the things that happened were not predicted by the experts, and that most of the things that were predicted by the experts did not happen. Take the last decade and analyze all the events that occurred in it: the Yom Kippur War, the upheaval in Moscow, Khomeyni's revolution — nothing was predicted. I have no complaints against the experts. I say that for a country the border is a limit, whereas for the experts the sky is the limit. We, all of us, are quick with words. I am fighting for things I believe in.

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[Shalev] A personal matter: You have been keeping us in the dark about the possibility that you may run in the next elections.

[Peres] I am not keeping anything in the dark. I just do not think I have to decide today. People want to force me to make a decision today. The only decision I can make today would create a dispute, and a dispute would spell the end of the peace process. I am the last person in the world who would do such a thing. This is not the time for a decision. Just as decisions must be made on time, so they must not be made before their time.

[Shalev] But the seeds of a dispute have been sown over the law on personal elections.

[Peres] I am against the law on personal elections, unless it is part of a law for the direct election of Knesset members. I believe it violates the required balance between the government and the Knesset.

[Shalev] The meaning of your position, if it is accepted, is that there will be no direct elections to the premiership in 1996.

[Peres] Or that it will also be decided to elect the Knesset members in direct elections in 1996. I will try to examine both possibilities. I do not know of any other such regime, where a prime minister is elected in direct elections and he has to depend on a coalition. This is very bizarre.

[Shalev] When you say that you have not yet made up your mind whether you are going to run, can we infer that such a possibility exists?

[Peres] I admit that you are a better interpreter than I am. You may decide whatever you want.

Rabin, Peres Pressuring Baraq To Join Government

TA1605172695 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 May 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The prime minister and foreign minister are exerting heavy pressure on former Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq in an attempt to convince him to join the government now as interior minister. Baraq prefers to defer the ministerial appointment for a few months. Tonight he left on a 10-day visit to the United States. [passage omitted]

Baraq Says No to Interior Ministry Job

TA1705054595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 17 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ehud Baraq has notified Prime Minister Rabin that he does not intend to join the government at this time. If he does agree to join it at all, it will only be in three months time.

Rabin met with the former chief of staff on Monday and offered him the Interior Ministry. 'Uzi Bar'am is giving up the post for personal reasons.

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Cabinet Addresses 'Concern' Over Jerusalem Issue

JN1705065495 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 17 May 95

[FBI Translated Excerpt] The cabinet held a session under His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir yesterday evening.

At the outset, his excellency reviewed the intensive efforts and contacts the Jordanian Government is making on various levels regarding the recent Israeli measures in Jerusalem on land expropriation and excavations under the walls of the holy places.

His excellency noted Jordan's constant concern about Jerusalem and emphasized Jordan's position on Jerusalem's Arab character and the concern about its holy places. He also emphasized Jordan's support for any Arab and Islamic effort that defends Arab rights in holy Jerusalem and works to safeguard and regain these rights. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister al-Kabariti Views Regional Issues

Reiterates 'Clear' Jerusalem Stance

JN1605202695 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has received French Ambassador in Amman Bernard Bajolet, whose country currently chairs the Security Council and the European Community. [passage omitted].

Answering reporters' questions following the meetings, al-Kabariti voiced Jordan's appreciation for the European stands on Jerusalem. He said that the French amendments are formal and linguistic and do not affect the substance of the Nonaligned Movement's draft resolution. He said: The amended U.S. decision regarding the draft resolution was not announced. The United States might possibly support the draft resolution or abstain from voting on it. He said he hoped the United States would not exercise its veto power, given that it is an impartial and honest mediator in the peace process, in addition to being a basic sponsor of this process according to clear legal terms of reference, that is, Resolutions 242 and 338.

Answering another question, he said that Jordan deeply regretted and was saddened by reports from Kashmir, especially news about the destruction of the historic shrine and mosque of Nuriddin Wali in the town of Charar Sharif. He said: This is a tragic incident, and we hope it will not cause the situation to deteriorate further. We call on all disputants not to resort to violence and to settle all disputes through negotiations and peaceful means and to refrain from violating the sanctity of the sacred sites of all religions and creeds in Kashmir. He added: This tragic incident behooves all parties to return to the negotiating table on the basis of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Al-Kabariti announced that a tripartite meeting bringing together His Majesty King Husayn, His Excellency German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will be held on the liberated Jordanian lands in the al-Baqurah area on 5 June. The meeting will discuss issues related to development and water projects in the Jordan Valley, which the European Community will help finance. Germany showed interest in supporting these projects following the signing of the peace treaty [with Israel].

Commenting on the call by the Arab League secretary general for convening a mini summit, al-Kabariti stressed the Jordanian constants which have always been supported at all Arab and Islamic meetings aiming to achieve the pan-Arab and strategic interests of Arabs. He said: The idea has not yet jelled; it is being discussed by the Arab League secretary general and some Arab states. Egyptian, Jordanian, and Palestinian contacts were conducted in this regard.

Regarding the displaced persons, al-Kabariti said: A meeting on the level of experts will be held in Beershiba on 7-8 June to discuss the issue of the displaced in implementation of the ministerial meeting that was held in Amman.

On the meeting of the House of Representatives that will be held tomorrow to discuss the issue of Jerusalem, he said: The official Jordanian position on this issue is all the more clear and was expressed through press statements on the local, Arab, and international levels. He said that he will attend the meeting in his capacity as a deputy and member of the [House of Representatives'] Foreign Affairs Committee and that he will provide deputies with all information and explanations if requested. He added: Jordan's position is an honorable one. We are all proud of it. There is understanding between us and the Palestinian brethren, and there is a high level of coordination. We look forward to the meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat to boost coordination and cooperation in all areas.

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Says Peace With Israel 'Developing'

JN1505080895 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 12 May 95 pp 24-25

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti by Jihan Faruq al-Husayni in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Husayni] To begin with, do you expect a warm peace between Jordan and Israel despite the problems on the Palestinian and Syrian tracks?

[Al-Kabariti] As a matter of fact, the process of building and preserving peace cannot be separated from the main issue, the Palestine question. Therefore, I think that if no real progress is made on the Palestinian and Syrian-Lebanese tracks, then it will be difficult to strengthen the general feeling in Jordan about the just and comprehensive solution that is necessary for normal and warm ties with the Israelis.

[Al-Husayni] In your opinion, are the Jordanian people satisfied with peace with Israel?

[Al-Kabariti] Among other things, the Jordanian-Israeli agreement provides for trade and political ties. It will take some time before the Jordanian citizens see the benefit of these ties. We cannot describe the reaction of the Jordanians by saying that they accept or reject the agreement. The process is developing and it could go forward or backward or stop. All this depends on how the citizens feel and whether or not they think the agreement has achieved positive results for them.

[Al-Husayni] Let us move to another issue. What do you think of Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, reassuming supervision of the committee for follow-up of negotiations with Israel? Do you foresee any change in the Palestinian negotiating tactics accordingly?

[Al-Kabariti] I do not think that the Palestinian side is responsible for the stumbling of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. This is the result of the methodology of the Israeli side, the contradictory interpretations given to the Oslo agreement as a result of electoral pressures, legal reviews, or a change in the basic positions that were adopted when the Oslo agreement was signed. I think that Abu-Mazin's serious participation in the negotiating process will contribute positively to strengthening the position of the Palestinian negotiator. I have met recently with Abu-Mazin and told him that I wish he would continue to take an active part in the negotiations for the implementation of the Oslo accord, since he is one of its main architects.

[Al-Husayni] Do you think that Israel seeks to play Jordan and the Palestinians off against each other through the statements made by its leaders from time to time about the city of Jerusalem?

[Al-Kabariti] First of all, I do not think that the issue of Jerusalem is a subject of dispute between the Palestinian and Jordanian sides. Our positions are now harmonious. There is high-level coordination and good cooperation between the Palestinian National Authority and Jordan. This has been the case since the agreements were signed between His Majesty King Husayn and President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] in Amman.

[Al-Husayni] Do you think that Israel will fulfill its promises to the Palestinians?

[Al-Kabariti] We should work to achieve everything we have accepted in our agreements. We also stress the unity of the Palestinian people and that the Arab countries should help and support the Palestinians. This could enable them to achieve their rights through negotiations.

[Al-Husayni] What about confederation between Jordan and Palestine? Is it still in your mind as a postponed idea or have you dropped it completely?

[Al-Kabariti] A Palestinian-Jordanian confederation or any other Palestinian-Jordanian unionist relationship is conditional on three things. First, the Palestinian people should achieve their right to self-determination. Second, they should exercise sovereignty over their territory. Third, the question of the refugees and displaced persons must be resolved.

[Al-Husayni] What about regional action or the setting up of a "regional organization"?

[Al-Kabariti] The issue of regional action has generated very sensitive reactions in the region and created dimensions that were not on the mind of the Jordanian decisionmaker. This is because talk about regional organizations does not necessarily mean falling under Israeli control or hegemony. The idea of a regional organization is meant to achieve regional security and cooperation, along the lines of the European Organization for Security and Cooperation. Viewing security from a comprehensive angle must take into consideration the political, economic, and human dimensions, besides security. We call for a unified Arab position on the issue of security, taking into consideration all the issues I have mentioned from a comprehensive angle. We are not against openness to any regional approach whose aim is to achieve Arab objectives.

[Al-Husayni] How do you define the term "Middle East" which is mentioned in the Jordanian-Israeli treaty?

[Al-Kabariti] I think there are great differences about the history of the concept "Middle East." Therefore, we

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in Jordan have started to talk about the Middle East and North Africa without separating the two.

[Al-Husayni] How true is it that Israel has mediated to have Jordan's debts to the United States written off or reduced?

[Al-Kabariti] After signing the peace treaty, it has become perfectly clear to all parties in the international community that in order for the peace process to maintain its momentum and receive popular support apart from the official stance, all these international parties must contribute toward alleviating Jordan's financial burdens, especially the large debts. In this context, I think Israel definitely has an interest in seeing peace reflect positively on the economic and social levels in Jordan.

[Al-Husayni] Is there anything new regarding Jordan's position on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty?

[Al-Kabariti] There is something special about the Jordanian position, since the Israeli nuclear reactor in Dimona is in a very sensitive region for Jordan. The Dimona reactor is not far from the largest population center in that region. It is not more than 20 air miles from the Jordanian city of al-Tafilah. Therefore, we have great concerns and we would like to see a strict international monitoring regime of Israel's nuclear experiments. This is because each time we think about Dimona and about Israel's nuclear tests, we think about the possibility of another Chernobyl in the region. The environmental threat to Jordan posed by the Dimona reactor is probably greater than the threats cited by some brother Arabs. Therefore, we want the treaty to be universal and we want Israel to join it. Our stand is closest to the Egyptian position.

[Al-Husayni] What about Jordanian-Gulf ties?

[Al-Kabariti] They are constantly developing. Our relations with the Sultanate of Oman are very special. There is a high degree of cooperation, coordination, and mutual respect. We also made good progress in our relations with Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain. We hope progress will be made with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

[Al-Husayni] Finally, what about Jordanian-Iraqi relations?

[Al-Kabariti] There is a general feeling in Jordan that the Iraqi people's suffering must come to an end. I think that a fragmented Iraq will pose a greater threat to the region than an Iraq that assumes its natural role in the Arab region. We hope that Iraq will meet all international obligations so it may play its natural role in this region. Jordan is committed to the Security Council resolutions, but there are trade ties as allowed by these resolutions.

U.S. Held Responsible for 'Frustration' in Country

JN1605181995 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
16 May 95 p 36

[From the "Everyday" column by Tariq Masarwah: "They Are Not the Guardians!!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] No one has digested the fact that the PLO agreed to keep the Jerusalem issue as a last priority for negotiations. Despite this, if the U.S. Congress insists on issuing its Zionist majority's resolution to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, then we call on the Jordanian Parliament and the Arab Parliamentary Union to issue a binding resolution considering all of Jerusalem the capital of the Palestinian state. This is not because we are more Palestinian than the Palestinians themselves, but because we are not more American than the Americans themselves, and because we are against the U.S. being more Israeli than the Israelis, and because we were compelled to accept the U.S. role as an "honest" broker.

Jordan has adopted a distinguished position toward the issues of Jerusalem and the signing of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Regrettably, however, the official mass media managed to black out and ignore this position brilliantly. Under such circumstances, the respectable newspapers did not bother to give prominence to this position. We must admit that we are unjustifiably afraid even though we are highly vulnerable to penetration. The general state of frustration, which is fabricated by the "patriots," conceals this unjustifiable fear, and constitutes the other side of penetration. We also have to admit that there is a strong and conscious power that is well aware of the size and capabilities of our country. This power also knows that we can say no and that we can state that the Americans are not our guardians and that obeying them is not something ordained by God.

What gives the Americans the right to look after the Jordanian minor? Is it the $7 million we receive in aid — we know that this amount is spent on financing studies that have been conducted five times over recent years. A single company, the Jordanian-Iraqi- Egyptian Maritime Bridge Company, netted more than $10 million in profit last year. Or is it the pledges that were made by the American President in the Jordanian parliament in order to attack the Muslims of Jordan and Islamic terrorism?

We cannot and we do not want to clash with the United States. However, we want to protect our national interests and our Arab relations. We want to put an end

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to the general state of frustration and deterioration that have been plaguing our country, and for which we know the Americans are responsible.

House Committee Meets Visiting German Delegation

JN1605142095 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 16 May (PETRA) — The chairman and members of the Foreign Relations Committee of the House of Representatives met here yesterday a German political delegation comprising several heads of provincial offices in the Federal Republic of Germany headed by the head of the Federal Political Education Office, which is currently visiting Jordan.

Committee Chairman Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur said that the Jordanian people remain grateful to the German people for the support they have extended during the tough circumstances Jordan experienced over the past 50 years. He asserted that Jordan, a country of scarce and limited resources, has, more than any other country in the world, shouldered the responsibilities and consequences of the Palestinian tragedy.

Al-Nusur added: We have received a large number of refugees in successive wars experienced by the region, the last of which was the Gulf war. This is the burden our country has had to put up with. Jordan has had to provide the basic services of water, electricity, roads, security, education, etcetera, which are the prerequisites of a modern state.

Al-Nusur went on to say: Many people in the world believed that regional problems would disappear with the mere signing of the agreement with Israel. However, this is not true. For durable and lasting peace to become viable, all sectors of our people must enjoy an acceptable and reasonable standard of living. The Jordanians' per capita income must increase to a reasonable level. It is to be recalled that the Jordanians' per capita income is one tenth of that of the Israelis.

Al-Nusur said: We are a peaceful and ambitious people. We look forward to the day when we will occupy a respectable position among the world community of nations. We have managed to achieve a 100 percent literacy rate in the elementary stage. Besides, the rate of illiteracy is less than 19 percent of the population. All population centers in the Kingdom enjoy health services. Everybody is entitled to free-of-charge basic health services. Almost 98 percent of houses have access to electrical and water supplies in the Kingdom. Moreover, the Kingdom boasts an excellent road network.

Al-Nusur added: We in Jordan enjoy a free political system based on political pluralism. We have 23 licensed parties. We have enjoyed democratic rights since the inception of the country. Women in Jordan have the right to vote and get elected. All citizenship rights are enjoyed by all without any discrimination. Our press operates freely within the confines of the laws in force.

Al-Nusur went on to say: We do not have political prisoners or prisoners of conscience in our country. Moreover, there are no Jordanians forced to seek political asylum abroad. We do not have organized crime, nor do we have underground clandestine organizations operating in the Kingdom. Our country is completely free of the scourge of terrorism. Drugs are not widespread in Jordan. We are cooperating with several states, including Germany, to eradicate the drug scourge.

For their part, the members of the guest delegation asserted that their visit to Jordan is meant to contribute to the enhancement of the friendly bilateral ties. They expressed their admiration of the accomplishments and progress made in Jordan. They also appreciated its resilience in the face of hardship and difficulties.

The German side expressed the hope that the peace process will make greater progress, indicating that peace will benefit all Jordanians.

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Report on Prime Minister's Intention To Resign Denied

NC1705121595 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's office has dismissed as absolutely baseless a news media report that Prime Minister al-Hariri intends to resign. The office said the prime minister has an appointment with the Teachers Bureau and the General Labor Federation this afternoon.

Buwayz Discusses Peace; U.S., Israeli Stances

NC1605063295 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stated that the Israeli Government's hesitation is the main obstacle to advancing the peace negotiations. He said that Israel is pressuring the Lebanese Government through the naval siege imposed on the south coast. It is also seeking to make us reduce the security measures we have taken at the crossing points. He added: These measures are essential to us after repeated Israeli attempts to disturb security in Lebanon. He noted that the call for an Arab summit to discuss Jerusalem and Israeli excesses is important. He said the U.S. reaction to the countries that still maintain the boycott of Israel is unjustified.

Asked if he expects new developments from the Syrian foreign minister's talks in Washington, he said the ball is in the Israeli court, noting that the Israeli party has not yet made a political decision.

***Paper: Israelis Involved in Turkish Incursion**

95LH0131A Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 3 Apr 95 pp 36-37

[Article by Yusuf 'Uthman: "Ataturk Founded Turkey; Will Ciller Destroy It?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Perhaps the hardest thing about the Turkish incursion into northern Iraq on the pretext of going after the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK] and its Kurdish supporters is that the Ankara government, led by Tansu Ciller, is trying to solve domestic Turkish problems at the expense of Iraq, a country helpless because of its president's policies. The Iraqis are being punished for these policies, and the incursion went ahead with the knowledge and coordination of the Iraqi Government itself, as if both the Iraqi and Kurdish sides consider the land where the Kurds live to be scorched earth. One day the Iraqi Army showered it with poisonous gas, as happened in Halabjah in 1988; another day, Turkish warplanes bombard it with napalm, as happened last week in the city of Zakhu. In Ankara's and Baghdad's jaws is this casualty known as the Kurds, who once produced a Muslim leader, Salah-al-Din al-Ayubi, the Kurd.

Turkey, which today aspires to be accepted by the Europeans, seeks to join the European Common Market, and is fighting for influence in the recently independent states of Asia Minor [Central Asia], is still hostage to Ottoman policy, even 70 years after the imposition of the secular regime by Kemal Ataturk. It was the Ottomans who gave the Turks their identity. Instead of this warring Islamic tribe fusing with the establishment of the Arab Islamic state—as the Mamelukes and Ayubids (Kurds) did before them—after 1517 it retreated, in Arab and Islamic terms, and expanded toward Europe in the name of Islam, without associating with that the cultural dimension that had accompanied the early Islamic conquests. Thus in history we see no influence from Constantinople, which was at the pinnacle of its power in the second half of the 16th century when the Islamic state of al-Andalus [Moorish Spain] was collapsing under the pressure and the blows of the Spanish. While the 17th century was the century of the Spanish and Portuguese in the seas and oceans reaching Latin America and North America, the Ottomans were suffering the inability to conquer the European mind in the countries over which they had gained control. Their chief concern was to strengthen the role of the Sufi orders, in the negative sense, and the Turkish state, which had inherited all of Islamic history yet was unable to take a single step forward toward fusing with true Islam. It did not link the Islamic capital to Constantinople by moving the Islamic climate itself there, as was the case when the capital was Damascus in the Umayad period, Baghdad in the Abbasid period, and Cairo in the Fatimid and Ayubid periods. What we mean by the Islamic climate is the scientific and intellectual movement that attracted learned and wise people from all regions to be in the service of learning and teaching in medicine, astronomy, chemistry, philosophy, jurisprudence, languages, etc. The matter was confined to shows of force and increased obstacles for citizens enduring the consequences of that power.

Time passed, Constantinople's power waned, and the state's prestige dwindled in step with its shrinking borders. It was no longer able to retain its ascendancy; even within the caliphate movement prevailing in the Arab nation, there were few defenders of the Turks. Its attachment to the caliphate was because the caliphate was a collective symbol which maintained unity and sustained the Muslim community. This movement's voice was not heard inside the ruling structure itself, so when Constantinople finally collapsed after World War

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I, it was easy for Kemal Ataturk, having coordinated with Britain and France, to abolish the caliphate and proclaim the modern state of Turkey, then move the capital to Ankara, secularize the country, and impose a new life on the people, the one they still lead, whose visible appearance is secular and whose inner essence is religious and traditional, in accordance with what the government demands. Turkey has a population of 65 million including many minorities, among which the Turkish minority is the largest. This is the group that actually governs and still refuses to recognize the Kurds as a community or the Alawites as a sect, let alone the Armenians or the Arabs of Iskanderun.

It was natural that just as Turkey did not deal justly at home, it did not deal justly abroad. Instead of learning a lesson from its former policy toward the Arab nation, it acted to risk the confidence between it and the Arab countries, seeking to strike a deal with France, by virtue of which the district of Iskanderun was sliced away from Syria. Yet again, instead of approaching the citizens of that district with goodwill, considering them to be Muslims who until recently were its subjects and continuing to deal with them on that basis even after its connivance with Paris, it initiated a campaign of forced emigration on one hand and Turkification on the other, until this territory was gutted of its indigenous nature. It is strange that Turkish policy, throughout its eight centuries, retained its hostile position vis-a-vis the Arabs and their causes. As Syria suffered the amputation of Iskanderun after the French withdrawal from it and from all of Syria, and the end of the mandate period, Turkey began building bridges with the United States, embarking eagerly on suspect projects and alliances against the Arab nation. History records that Turkish Prime Minister Adnan Mandaris headed the delegation that came to Cairo in 1956 to hold talks with Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir on behalf of the countries benefiting from the [Suez] Canal. He agreed with the British view that it was not Egypt's right to nationalize the Suez Canal and retain its revenues for the Egyptian treasury instead of foreign companies.

The Turkish Government has long maintained a consulate in Israel, the role of which has been broader than an embassy's role, as it has overseen the building of close economic and political relations between Ankara and Tel Aviv, which today still work to the detriment of its historic relations with the Arabs. Whenever America brought its plans to the Arab region, Turkey helped to market these plans, including the Central Treaty Organization [CENTO], which became the Baghdad Pact; the Eisenhower Plan for the defense of the Middle East; and the Islamic Alliance, with all these pacts aimed at serving Israel and restoring Western control in American garb, bearing in mind that Turkey was benefiting from Arab oil and exporting cheap labor—in competition with Arab manpower—to the Arab Gulf states.

The present state of affairs is no less unfortunate than those of the past, for in its relations with the Israeli Government, the Turkish Government has submitted many plans for joint ventures between Ankara and Tel Aviv, with Arab funding. Among these projects, for example, is the idea for water canals between Turkey and occupied Palestine to redistribute water to other Arab countries, the implications of which include the negative impact on the quantities of water allocated to both Syria and Iraq under the laws in place regarding the usage of water, to say nothing of the Ataturk Dam, which Turkey built without regard to international law. It has more than once deprived Baghdad and Damascus of Tigris and Euphrates outflow on the pretext of filling that dam.

In addition to this Turkish history, the most recent instance of coordination between Turkey and Israel is the presence of more than 50 Israeli military experts in Ankara to put Israel's experience in southern Lebanon to use in northern Iraq, in addition to security coordination between them, through which there has been an exchange of information about the situation of the PKK in Lebanon and in the regions of Kurdistan in Iraq. This was a revenge operation mounted against the Kurds, a vendetta against their figure Salah-al-Din al-Ayubi. The position on the Kurds can be explained only in the context of this interpretation, as many minorities have achieved their right to independence and even a state, while Kurdish nationalism has been viewed by the countries among whom the Kurdish people are divided. They experienced American deception after the second Gulf War, "Desert Storm," as U.S. policy painted them a glowing picture of the possibility of creating their own state, and the rivalry between the two major parties—the National Union led by Jalal al-Talibani and the Democratic Party led by Mas'ud al-Barzani—began. The result was mutual clashes, open war between the two parties, and the failure of the experiment of the same administration which Washington had blessed and which was decreed in security terms as part of the UN resolutions imposed on Iraq. The most important Kurdish development attributed to the second Gulf War was the total separation between the Kurds of Iraq and the Kurds of other countries; that is why the PKK action against Turkey has begun. It is seeking autonomy for the Kurds, apart from the efforts of other Kurds, to obtain their rights. Will Turkey succeed in its new campaign?

Some observers believe Turkey is a country bound for political fragmentation after the end of the Cold War.

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Hence its policy will not be able to harden because of its domestic unity. The best way to maintain this unity is not the current discrimination between sects and ethnicities, nor the military force used against the Kurds one day and the Alawites the next. The best solution may be the redrawing of administrative boundaries on the basis of these regions, which are classified by sect and ethnicity—according a wide margin of autonomy permitting equality and equal opportunity—and freeing the minorities from oppression, especially as a single religion enables Turkey to be a model country. Observers also believe that Turkey must take a close look at itself. Today it is not an imperial state that can look down on other countries, especially at the Arabs, but what if the Turkish Army remains in northern Iraq? Here the problem seems to be more than a mere campaign against the PKK. If an appetite for Iraqi territory is part of the campaign to create a fait accompli, it will be difficult for any Iraqi government to change.

Church Bombing Suspect Released on Bail

NC1605142895 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Judicial Council today suspended the arrest warrant against Fu'ad Malik, who is suspected of involvement in the bombing of the Sayyidat al-Najat Church. He will be released on a 10 million pound bond, which is in two parts. The first part, 9 million pounds, is to ensure that he will attend his trial and the second part, 1 million pounds, is to ensure that he will pay costs.

The Judicial Council decided that Malik should remain at the disposal of the council and should attend trials as a detainee when they resume. Therefore, he is not allowed to leave the country for the time being.

The Judicial Council decided this after the trial was postponed to a later date and because of the defendant's deteriorating health.

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Foreign Minister Continues Visit to Washington

Views Peace Process With Officials

JN1605204295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received in Washington this morning Dennis Ross, coordinator of the Middle East peace process; and Mark Parris, Middle East affairs adviser at the National Security Council. The meeting was attended by Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian negotiating delegation; and Walid al-Mu'allim, Syrian ambassador in Washington.

The two sides discussed peace process-related topics raised during the foreign minister's meeting yesterday with U.S. President Bill Clinton and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

'Some' Proposals 'Cannot Be Accepted'

JN1605210195 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 May 95

[Report by Hisham Milhim in Washington; from the "Panorama" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The proposals and ideas which have been presented by U.S officials during their meetings with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' over the past two days, are still far away from Syrian demands despite the fact that they contain some positive elements. Although these proposals call for mutual [mutabadalah] security arrangements on the two sides of the border, it seems — according to initial reports — that they are not based on the concept of equality [musawah] on which Damascus insists.

Informed U.S. sources revealed that most of these proposals and ideas were not discussed with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin during his visit to Washington, even though Rabin himself was the source of some of these proposals and ideas. This is despite the fact that the U.S. side tries to cover them with a U.S. guise in an attempt to sell them to the Syrians.

Regarding these proposals Minister Faruq al-Shar' told Radio Monte Carlo: [Begin al-Shar' recording] In fact, proposals on the principles of security arrangements were presented. Some of these proposals are positive, but some of them cannot be accepted by Syria. [end recording]

After noting the reports that Rabin presented new ideas to President Clinton, al-Shar' said: So far, we have not seen new ideas regarding the principles of security arrangements. Al-Shar' refrained from going into details of these U.S. proposals. However, he said: I, however, can say that Syria adheres to balanced and equal [mutawazin wa mutasawi] security arrangements on the two sides of the 4 June 1967 border. Addressing Arab journalists in Washington, al-Shar' said: I cannot say that the U.S. side has negative ideas. As I have said, we felt seriousness in the U.S. side. However, there are Israeli ideas which, sometimes, the U.S. side tries to convince us of. We, on our part, cannot be convinced of this matter so easily.

On the possibility of the return to Washington by the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff to resume military talks, Minister al- Shar' said: When we reach a unified understanding of security arrangements it is natural to follow this with a number of steps to practically implement these principles within the framework of full withdrawal from Golan.

On a possible visit to the region by Secretary Warren Christopher, Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: Christopher might visit the region.

Israel Urged To Reconsider 'Unacceptable' Policy

JN1705073695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 17 May 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Syria's Truths and Israel's Falsehoods," AL-BA'TH today writes on Israel's repeated deception campaigns and repeated insinuations that tarnish Syria's principled and constant stands on the peace process, using beguiling political terms devoid of any content.

AL-BA'TH says that based on its clear stands and its absolute faith in the soundness of those stands, which reflect the Arab nation's conscience, Syria has refrained from responding to Israel's falsehoods and insinuations, aware that it is useless to be involved in sterile arguments.

AL-BA'TH says that Israel occasionally uses unacceptable political terms. For example, the paper says, Rabin has said that Israel will not pay Syria the price it is demanding for peace. This is a serious fallacy that further exposes Rabin's rejection of a just, comprehensive peace. The paper says that peace is not a negotiable business deal. If we may use the term price, then we say that the price Syria is demanding is the implementation of the requirements of the peace process, based on the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy. If Rabin insists on the concept of deals, he should look for deals somewhere other than Damascus.

In conclusion, AL-BA'TH says that in his first reaction to the talks Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' is holding

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in Washington, Rabin threatened to halt the peace talks if Syria insists on the principle of equality [musawah] in security arrangements. Undoubtedly, this threat exposes more Israeli intentions to obstruct the peace efforts and to reject the UN resolutions and any commitment to international legitimacy. However, this will not make Syria refrain from continuing efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in this region.

In an editorial under the headline "A Just Peace and Equitable [mutakafi'] Security," TISHRIN says that it has become evident that advancing the peace process requires an Israeli commitment to the requirements of this process in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, including the full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

TISHRIN adds that Syria's assertions on full withdrawal and equitable security are not new. Rather, they constitute the core of Syrian policy on the peace process. This has been frequently reiterated by Syria, which regards full withdrawal as the basic requirement for advancing the talks on the Syrian-Israeli track and for arriving at an acceptable solution on this track.

TISHRIN says that the gaps referred to by Israeli officials have not been made by Syria, nor are they the outcome of its policies. Rather, those gaps have been created by Israel to derail the peace process in the interest of Israeli schemes and ambitions. Otherwise, what do Israel's statements on a limited withdrawal on the Golan Heights mean? What is the meaning of its demands for security arrangements that ensure its interests and objectives alone at the expense of others' interests and inalienable rights, and about which dozens of international resolutions have been issued?

TISHRIN adds: When Israel declares that it will not give in to Syria's conditions, it in fact wants to say that it does not want peace, and that it will stick to the policy of aggression and expansion to impose the status quo in the service of its ambitions.

In a comment, AL-THAWRAH says that there are many signs which prove that Israel is not interested in achieving a breakthrough in the peace process and that it is not considering presenting any positive initiative to help create an appropriate atmosphere for advancing the negotiations toward the objective set for them—a just, comprehensive peace.

AL-THAWRAH adds that one does not need much effort to enumerate such signs, starting with the policy of settlement building, the confiscation of land, the escalation of repression and terrorism inside the occupied territories, the daily, repeated shelling and attacks on defenseless villages in southern Lebanon, and ending with the provocative, intransigent statements launched by the Tel Aviv rulers. On every occasion, those rulers stress their rejection of the principle of full withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and their insistence on phased steps and partial withdrawals. They want peace in accordance with abnormal concepts that enable them to attain everything and give the Arabs nothing but crumbs of their rights and territory.

AL-THAWRAH says that up to this moment, Israel has not taken any step, no matter how small, toward a just, comprehensive peace in accordance with the concept set by the contents of the relevant international resolutions and the essence and spirit of the U.S. initiative.

In conclusion, AL-THAWRAH says: In contrast with this Israeli stand, which is very far away removed from peace, Syria has shown every response to and cooperation with the peace efforts. Syria is still ready to do everything possible to arrive at this noble, human objective. Logically, without Syria's full restoration of the Golan it is impossible to achieve peace. Syria does not bargain over its territory and can never relinquish its rights. Therefore, Israel is supposed to reconsider its stands and arrogant policy and to understand well the reality of the Syrian stand which accepts nothing less than the full restoration of the occupied Arab territories as a basic, indispensable condition if this region is wanted to free itself of the residues of wars and disputes and to really enjoy peace and security.

Radio: Peace, Occupation 'Diametrically Opposed'

JN1605141095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 May 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: While the Syrian foreign minister was discussing with President Clinton and Secretary Christopher ways to advance the peace process in the region, the Israeli prime minister hastened to reject Syria's conditions, even if this entails dire consequences. Syria's conditions, as everybody knows, are represented in the implementation of Security Council resolutions, which do not permit occupation and call on Israel to return to the 4 June 1967 aggression lines. These resolutions also ask Israel to revoke all the measures it has taken to change the features of the occupied Arab territories and enforce the Israeli law on these territories.

Stemming from the principle of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, Syria is demanding equitable [mutakafi'ah] and balanced [mutawazinah] security arrangements that would reassure everybody and

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dispel fears. The U.S. initiative and the Madrid conference are originally based on Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. The United States has offered a series of assurances and affirmations to Syria and the Arab parties on the need to achieve a just and honorable peace on the basis of the international resolutions.

Israel's refusal to withdraw to the 4 June 1967 lines and its rejection of the principle of equitable arrangements confirm once again that its rulers do not care at all about the achievement of a just and honorable peace. All politicians know that the major obstacle to a firm, stable, and permanent peace in the Middle East is Israel's desire to swallow up a part of the occupied Arab territories, in violation of all international resolutions, the UN Charter, and the essence of the U.S. initiative.

The above statement by Rabin indicates that Israel prefers to keep the Arab territories if it has to choose between territory and peace. From this perspective, any talk about peace is absurd, since Israel evades the basics of peace and its substantial facts. Perhaps, the Rabin government's seizure of Arab territory around occupied Jerusalem sheds some light on Israel's concept of peace, which conflicts with the concept held by the international family. Israel has so far seized two thirds of the West Bank and is planning to seize more territories under the pretext of Greater Jerusalem, whose size is larger than that of Paris with its 10 million people.

Syria has responded honestly and responsibly to the U.S. and international peace efforts. For this purpose, Syria made constructive proposals and worked to facilitate Secretary Christopher's mission in the region. Syria cannot go any further. The Golan has been Syrian territory since time immemorial. Syria will never consider ceding one inch of the land of the Golan or any of the rights of its people. It is also out of the question that Syria should conclude a separate agreement, along the lines of the Oslo agreement, which contradicts the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principles of the Madrid conference. Such an agreement will eventually not lead to peace. Instead, it will create a tense, explosive situation, similar to the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories. Syria is eager to restore its land and the rights of its people. Also, it is eager to achieve peace and to safeguard the Arab rights and territories. This is because peace cannot be built on lame agreements; it can be built through agreements that are based on justice, fairness, and international resolutions and principles. Such agreements would meet Arab rights and remove the flagrant injustice and sinful aggression against them.

Hence, the role of the United States, which sponsored the peace process and committed itself to its principles and substance, is to dot the i's and level with the Tel Aviv officials and tell them that peace and occupation are diametrically opposed to each other.

Russian Parliamentary Delegation Pays Visit

Relations Termed 'Good'

JN1505172095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ramazan Abdulatipov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Council, arrived in Damascus this afternoon at the head of a parliamentary delegation on a three-day working visit to Syria. The visit comes within the framework of official contacts and consultations between the two countries' parliamentarians.

Abdulatipov and his accompanying delegation were received at Damascus International Airport by 'Adil Jamus, deputy speaker of the People's Assembly; Shakir Isa'id, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee in the People's Assembly; the Russian ambassador in Damascus; and the Russian Embassy staff.

In a statement to the Syrian Arab News Agency, SANA, Abdulatipov described Russian-Syrian relations as good. He said that parliamentarians in both countries must play their role in developing and strengthening relations. He noted that his visit to Syria aims at continuing the talks he and the accompanying delegation began during a visit to Syria in October 1993.

Abdulatipov said: I have very good memories from my previous meetings with President Hafiz al-Asad, the vice president, and the speaker of the People's Assembly. He noted that, during this visit, the discussion will deal with means of cooperation between Syrian and Russian parliamentarians, and the various aspects of this cooperation laid down during the 1993 visit. He added that there is a cooperation protocol between the Russian parliament and the Syrian People's Assembly, noting that his visit to Syria comes within the framework of his tour of the region, which will also take him to Egypt and Lebanon.

Speaker Qaddurah Receives Team

JN1505195595 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah this evening received Ramazan Abdulatipov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Council, and his delegation. The meeting was attended

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by Shakir Is'id, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee in the People's Assembly, and the Russian ambassador in Damascus.

Talks dealt with relations between the two friendly countries, particularly in the parliamentary field, and the need to promote and consolidate them. Talks also dealt with the regional situation and the peace process.

Qaddurah stressed the important and pivotal role Syria is playing under President Hafiz al-Asad in working for peace. He explained to the guest delegation the consistent Syrian position in defense of the pan-Arab positions and fateful issues.

He added that this position is entrenched daily and is safeguarding pan-Arab rights as a prelude to achieving a just and comprehensive peace. Such peace should prevail throughout the world, particularly in our region.

For his part, Abdulatipov stressed the Russian Parliament's interest in promoting work in all fields in a way that will serve the common interests of both friendly countries, particularly the interests of both parliaments, which can play a constructive role in promoting bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Vice President Reviews Ties

JN1605163195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1300 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received a Russian parliamentary delegation, led by Ramazan Abdulatipov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Council.

The meeting was attended by the Russian ambassador in Damascus; 'Adil Jamus, deputy speaker of the People's Assembly; and Shakir Is'id, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Relations Committee in the People's Assembly.

The conferees discussed the international situation, the situation in the region, and bilateral ties.

Joint Parliamentary Session Held

JN1605164095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A session of parliamentary talks was held this morning between the Syrian Arab side, led by Muhammad 'Adil Jamus, deputy speaker of the People's Assembly; and the Russian side, led by Ramazan Abdulatipov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Council. Shakir Is'id, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee, and members of the two delegations attended the session.

The talks focused on parliamentary relations between the two friendly countries and ways of enhancing them to promote their mutual interests and contribute toward coordinating their stands at international forums. In addition, each side made a presentation about progress in the parliamentary process in its country and aspects of bilateral cooperation. [passage omitted]

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India

Prime Minister: War With Pakistan Not 'Policy'

BK1605160495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [The] government is looking into the issue of granting some kind of autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir under the existing constitutional provisions. Replying to a discussion on the Charar Sharif incident in the Rajya Sabha today, the prime minister said he will hold a second round of talks with the opposition members on the issue. Mr. Narasimha Rao said the Indian Constitution is flexible enough to find a way of coexistence for all as a nation. He said the government is prepared to hold discussions with all the leaders in the state who are ready for talks within framework of the Constitution. The prime minister said the government is more determined today to continue with the restoration of the political process in the state. He said the setback of the Charar Sharif incident will not browbeat us.

Mr. Rao said the government has released several party leaders in the state and they are allowed to go anywhere in the country and hold discussions. He said we should now make haste to come back to popular rule without affecting the situation adversely. He ruled out a judicial inquiry to the Charar Sharif incidents. Mr. Rao said people and governments all over the world today know that the Charar Sharif shrine was burned down by terrorists trained, funded, and inspired by Pakistan.

The prime minister added a war against Pakistan is not India's policy. Mr. Narasimha Rao said the Kashmir issue is a national question and should not be treated as a party matter at all. He said an all-party delegation could visit Jammu and Kashmir at a proper time to study all the issues related to the Charar Sharif incidents.

India has expressed surprise and regret at the statement by the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] on the destruction of the Charar Sharif shrine and town. In a statement in New Delhi, the External Affairs Ministry spokesman said responsible foreign media have accepted that the shrine was occupied and burned by foreign mercenaries to undermine the territorial integrity of India. He said a similar attempt was earlier made at the Hazratbal shrine, which was foiled. The spokesman said Islamabad is trying to fan religious and international sentiment through the OIC. He expressed the hope the OIC will realize that the statements will only give encouragement to terrorists responsible for the outrage. The spokesman said the government fails to understand why the OIC Contact Group considered it necessary to comment on the burning of the shrine when it was an act of vandalism and not a communal or religious issue.

Prime Minister Rejects 'Pressure' on Missile Program

BK1605145895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Deployment of Prithvi missiles is under consideration of the government. The prime minister told the Lok Sabha that no amount of pressure will make an iota of difference to the program; the missile program as conceived will continue without any modification. Mr. Narasimha Rao also told the house that the pending trials of the Agni missile program will be completed.

Mr. Rao was replying to the debate on the demands for grants of the Defense Ministry 1995-96, which the house adopted later after rejecting all opposition cut motions [amendments].

Reiterating India's stand on the NPT [nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] issue, the prime minister called for a new turn to approach. He said the only thing achieved at the recent review meeting in New York was an indefinite extension of the NPT. He said New Delhi will continue to work for a genuine nonproliferation treaty and total elimination of nuclear weapons as presented in the Rajiv Gandhi action plan.

The prime minister did not favor joint commercial ventures for export of arms. He said India does not want to be a death merchant. On the Bofors gun deal issue, Mr. Rao said the focus has been shifted to Swiss courts and the delay is due to legal hurdles.

Daily Views Joint U.S. Exercises, 'Contradiction'

BK1705094595 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 15 May 95 p 6

[Article by Ranjeet Kumar: "The Joint Indo-U.S. Naval Exercises"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The second Joint Indo-U.S. Naval Exercise concluded recently on the Malabar coast near Kerala. This four-day exercise conducted jointly by the Indo-U.S. naval forces will definitely bring Indo-U.S. defense ties back to the center of discussions. Although these exercises do not suggest any form of possible naval alliance, they do indicate the common desire of the two countries to develop better relations. During the Cold War, these sort of exercises were unthinkable as the world was then clearly divided between the two superpowers.

However, after the Cold War India had the opportunity to dispel various doubts raised about its intentions.

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Taking advantage of this, it conducted joint naval exercises, especially with Southeast Asian countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore etc., and also with Britain and Australia. Joint naval exercises with these countries, however, do not raise any controversy and hence do not become a topic of discussion, although these countries also remain proteges of the United States. However, when such exercises are conducted with the U.S. they invariably do engender controversies. The reason, perhaps, lies in the U.S. indulgence in unnecessary and unwanted criticism of India's defense preparations. The U.S. has always been advising India to shun missile and nuclear programs, repeatedly pressuring it to stop the deployment of the 'Prithvi' and 'Agni' missiles.

What a queer contradiction in the U.S. stand! While pressuring India to drop its nuclear and missile programs on the one hand, the U.S. also repeatedly issues double entendres on Kashmir to boost Pakistan's morale, and questions India's geographical integrity. On the other hand, the U.S. has shown a willingness to develop defense ties with India. Not only this, but it is looking for excuses to resume supplying Pakistan with the F-16 bombers despite knowing that such military aid would definitely put strategic pressures on India. However, the U.S. is desirous of developing defense cooperation with India in a very practical manner. In April 1991, the then Chief of U.S. Pacific command, Lt Gen Kicklighter, proposed better defense cooperation with India. After the proposal was accepted, it was implemented. The first joint naval exercise of the two countries was conducted in May 1992. Later, the ties seemed to have developed a pause. Although it was immediately declared that they would be involved in a naval exercise of an advanced nature, nothing of that sort took place as the U.S. began to exert unprecedented pressure on India to drop its nuclear and missile programs. The U.S. went to the extent of questioning the validity of Kashmir's merger with India. Thus, the U.S. position began to generate adverse Indian public and political opinion, which did not favor Indian defense cooperation with a country so opposed to its national interest.

The situation became so explosive that when Prime Minister Narasimha Rao in May 1993 decided to visit the U.S., there was violent opposition against it inside and outside Parliament. The Indian Government, considering the extreme U.S. sensitivity on test-firing Prithvi and other missiles, stopped the tests forthwith. Eventually, when Prime Minister visited the U.S., the Defense Secretary, Mr. William Perry met him and requested a resumption of defense ties. Mr. Rao accepted his request, which resulted in the agreement to ensure better defense cooperation. This had far reaching effects, seen when the U.S. Defense Secretary visited India in January this year. According to this agreement, the U.S. will give full cooperation in the transfer of high military technology to India. Mentionable also is the fact that the U.S. companies are already giving all forms of technical cooperation in India's Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Project.

Before the visit of the U.S. defense secretary, the chief of the U.S. Pacific Command, Admiral Richard Macke, had visited India and obtained permission for a tangible program on naval exercises with the Indian navy. Thus, there is every likelihood that renewed vigor would be imparted to Indo-U.S. defense ties. Notwithstanding the U.S. willingness to supply Pakistan with F-16 bombers by lifting sanctions imposed under the Pressler Amendments, defense cooperation with the U.S. is likely to grow.

Better Indo-U.S. defense cooperation serves the interest of both countries. A vacuum has developed in the Indian Ocean region after the Cold War, one which can tempt many to assume the naval supremacy and thus generate bitter competition. China, especially, has started taking an unusual interest in the region. If the Indo-U.S. naval forces are seen to be actively cooperating, no other power would dare look at this region and intervene. Similarly, U.S. interests will be served by keeping the sea lanes at the mouth of the Gulf open with Indian cooperation.

There are immense possibilities for better Indo-U.S. defense cooperation. However, when the implementation or the programs for cooperation begin, both the countries try to be unduly secretive. Although all official information is given well in advance in similar joint exercises with other countries, this is not so with the U.S., where every activity is classified as extremely sensitive.

Editorial Views NPT in Light of PRC Test

BK1705100395 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 May 95 p 12

[Editorial: "China's Gauntlet"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] By conducting its underground nuclear test just four days after the Non-proliferation Treaty [NPT] was extended indefinitely, and a comprehensive test ban promised to be conclusively imposed by 1996, China has brought the rest of the world down to earth and demonstrated clearly what the NPT extension really means — legitimisation of possession of nuclear weapons by the nuclear weapon powers. China has been less hypocritical about it than other nuclear weapon powers. It has made it clear that it would continue its testing since it has to catch up with the other nuclear

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Joneses in respect of warhead modernisation and sophistication. The legitimisation of nuclear weapons by the international community lends full justification to the Chinese action. The Chinese are also in a position to point out that they are conducting only their 42nd test while others have conducted a lot more. The timing of the Chinese test sends out a clear message to the rest of the world that China is not going to be unduly bothered about the sensitivities of its neighbours who were naive enough to legitimise nuclear weapons. If the latter are worried about the Chinese test and behaviour, that it the price they have to pay for toeing the line of nuclear hegemonists.

There will no doubt be expressions of regret and disapproval by other nuclear weapon powers and countries like Japan and Australia. The test will further enhance the image of China in East and Southeast Asia. That is to be expected since the entire purpose of getting nuclear weapons legitimised on the part of the nuclear weapon powers was to project such armaments as international currency of power. Recently the Chinese foreign minister, Mr Qian Qichen, equated China with the United States and said that both countries had to shoulder great responsibilities for the future of the world and the destiny of mankind. Though he denied Chinese ambitions for exercising hegemonism, his equation of China with the United States and the conduct of the nuclear test will send out a very clear signal to the nations of the Western Pacific rim about the future power equation in the region. The U.S. and the nations of Southeast and East Asia should be conscious of the implications of this projection of power by China when they seek to persuade India to cap, reduce and eliminate its nuclear capability. The timing of the test and the insensitivity displayed to global opinion also serve notice that China will bargain hard on the Comprehensive Test Ban and the weapon grade fissile materials production cut-off. India has to take these aspects and the China-Pakistan nuclear and missile relationship, including the Chinese assistance to Pakistani plutonium production reactor at Khushub, into account in formulating its nuclear security policy.

Editorial Examines Delhi's Nuclear Policy Options

BK1705055295 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 14 May 95 p 7

[Editorial: "Policy Options for India"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On May 11, 1995, 175 out of 178 nations parties to the NPT [nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] and attending the Review and Extension Conference at New York, accepted an indefinite and unconditional extension of the Treaty. This was done through a process of consensus. No vote was required. The effect is that the Treaty will perpetuate nuclear weapons with the five permanent members of the UN for an indefinite period in the future.

Some hitches continued till the end. Objections came from three quarters. Mexico recommended some broad general commitment for review and disarmament. The Non-aligned group led by Indonesia and with merely eleven members, recommended a rolling extension of 25 years. This would have entailed an automatic extension after this, but with a provision for review at that time. Finally, the Arab countries led by Egypt wanted to initiate a resolution for a nuclear weapon free zone in West Asia. They also wanted Israel to be named. The US and its allies diluted it by accepting to sponsor a resolution calling on all remaining states outside the Treaty to accede to the NPT.

Israel's position on the NPT has been determined mainly by security considerations. It now says that it will accede to the Treaty two years after all Arab states sign a peace treaty with it. A fairly long term prospect indeed.

Finally, a compromise was hammered out based on three official resolutions. In addition to the Mexican and NAM [Nonaligned Movement] proposals, the majority proposal came from Canada. The president of the Conference Jayanthy Dhanapala of Sri Lanka worked out consensus documents based on these.

Apart from the indefinite and unconditional extension, there are three other documents. A broad set of principles on non- proliferation. Next, provisions for enhanced review of the treaty. Finally a call to make West Asia nuclear free. All these three provisions are extremely general in nature, without any method of implementation and vague even in its goals. Only gain was the acceptance of the NAM proposal, calling all states to pursue determinedly, systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating these weapons. But the nuclear weapons states ensured that it remains a mere platitude by ensuring that no time frame was even suggested in this proposal.

There is no point in bemoaning the extension in perpetuity of this Treaty. Nations have their strategic interests. India has its own. The world has never been an equitous one a reality that we need to accept. However what is important is an understanding of the implications of this extension and options for the future.

Let us briefly consider the implications of this extension. US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, in his opening address at the beginning of this Conference, had called this " truly one of the most important treaties of all time". In some ways it may well be true, for it

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has indeed the most adherents. But the exceptions are noteworthy — Brazil, Cuba, India, Israel and Pakistan. It is equally true that it is also one of the most inequitous treaties of all time. One of the fundamental tenets of the Treaty is Article VI, which seeks a "treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control" has largely been ignored.

The fears of the non-nuclear states that an unconditional extension would remove all incentives towards disarmament is all too true. Even France and the United Kingdom, with no major threat to their security, show no inclination towards eliminating or even reducing their nuclear arsenals.

The scenario is not different in respect of the erstwhile superpowers. The START 1 Agreement was ratified on December 6, 1994 and is already under implementation. But problems will be encountered in ratifying START 2, which was to meaningfully reduce the nuclear arsenals of the USA and the erstwhile Soviet Union. Both the currently hostile Duma and the Republican controlled Congress are likely to oppose this for different reasons. The ceilings under START 2 were to be 3,000 (Russian) and 3,500 (US) deployed warheads. Besides another approximately 5,000 warheads each are likely to be available as reserves. Neither the "fissile material production ban for weapons purposes" nor the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) now proposed to be completed by 1996, will adequately address nuclear disarmament. There are enough fissile material already available to both nations for all the nuclear weapons that they may conceivably want to build. Nuclear tests are no longer essential to prove a nuclear weapon and can now be simulated entirely in the laboratory.

The only additional component that is required to be produced in order to maintain the nuclear arsenals is Tritium. This is required to significantly boost the yields of nuclear weapons and is thus an essential component. The "half life" of Tritium is 12 years, unlike that of Pu 239 and enriched uranium, which are measured in thousands of years. The USA plans to build a new billion dollar facility to produce Tritium, which will enable it to maintain its existing nuclear arsenals at least to the year 2050.

The Chinese of course show no sign towards entering a nuclear disarmament process. Instead it is modernising its nuclear delivery capability as well as its warheads. Beijing's goal is to match the nuclear arsenals of the two major powers, both in numbers and sophistication. It is steadily on its way to achieving just this. Given this reality, what are the options available to India? Broadly there are four First, is to join the Treaty. John Hollum, the Director of the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, felt that indefinite extension will make it more likely for states such as Israel, India and Pakistan to join the Treaty. This may be ruled out for India at least in the immediate future. India has consistently supported a nuclear weapon free world; but has never accepted the discriminatory nature of the NPT.

Second option is to reject the Treaty outright and remain forever outside the Treaty. Given India's consistent policy towards arms control and disarmament this is not an option that India can easily accept. India did not participate in the NPT Conference as it was not a party to the Treaty. Otherwise New Delhi has consistently remained engaged in the global disarmament debate. This must continue.

The third option may be to go overtly nuclear. Unfortunately this was an option that was available prior to the Treaty's cut-off date of January 1, 1967. A nuclear detonation or an overt declaration of nuclear capability now will not change the position of India as a non-nuclear weapon nation according to the Treaty. Instead India will come under coordinated international pressure on a number of fronts.

The final option may be to continue as a threshold state till its security compulsions are fully addressed. India's record as a responsible nation that has strongly followed non-proliferation, stringently adhered to not exporting technology related to weapons of mass destruction and its policy on chemical materials control, are all more stringent than that of most countries. All this can be done without compromising on the NPT but in accommodating within its acceptable provisions. This is the "middle path" that suits India best in the present time.

Iran

President Interviewed on U.S. Television Network

Says U.S., Israel 'Supporters of Terrorism'

LD1605140795 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with the ABC U.S. television network, President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani raised important issues and referred to the U.S. Government and the Zionist regime as the true supporters of terrorism in the world. He also said that the propaganda uproar by the global arrogance on Iran's efforts to acquire nuclear weapons and support for terrorism has emanated from its hostility with the Islamic revolution and lack of a correct understanding of the realities of the Islamic system.

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President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: World public opinion and the U.S. people know that the U.S. allegations against Iran are a political bluff. We are ready to prove that Iran itself is a victim of terrorism more than any other country. He added: The physical harm suffered by the great leader of the Islamic revolution [Khamene'i] and the scare of the terrorists' bullets on my body, as well as the martyrdom of a large number of outstanding personalities and people, are clear evidence of the numerous crimes carried out by terrorists supported by the U.S. Government and the Zionist regime in Israel. Despite confessing to the fact that the opposition of the Islamic Republic are terrorists, the U.S. Government has given them sanctuary and supports them, and buys false information from them.

Referring to the U.S. Government's enormous disgrace in the process of accusing Iran of involvement in a series of explosions, including the explosion at the Zionist headquarters in Argentina, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani described it as proof of the U.S.' false accusations and claims, and added: In order to deceive the U.S. people and cover up the failure of his latest visit to Russia — aimed at convincing the Russian Government that Iran is seeking to acquire nuclear weapons — Mr. Clinton made an untrue claim that Iran wants to purchase equipment that is needed to enrich uranium as a part of the contract signed between Iran and Russia. In order to pretend that he has not returned empty handed from his visit, he has announced that he has canceled this part of the contract.

Our country's president asked why the U.S. Government thinks that the people of that country are so simple-minded to believe its lies.

In reply to a question on the reason behind the continuation of the anti-U.S. struggles of the Iranian people, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Our people are angry with the United States because it is almost 17 years that they have been listening to U.S. accusations and lies and have witnessed much hostility and animosity, including the martyrdom of the 300 innocent people traveling on board the Iranian airbus downed by the U.S. naval forces, and have suffered considerable losses because Iranian assets are being frozen by the U.S. Government without any reason. All these are reasons for the Iranian nation's hatred and aversion toward the United States.

Regarding the prospect of relations between Iran and the United States, the president added: On the basis of the instructions by the late Imam Khomeyni and the great leader, we have always said that first of all, the United States should stop the bullying and end hostilities against Iran and prove that it has no hostilities with Iran; and to approach fairly with the Islamic revolution and the Muslims and apologize 1,000 times to the Iranian people for so much conspiracy and hostility.

Rejecting the unfounded U.S. accusations against Iran on efforts to obtain nuclear and chemical weapons, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani described them as spiteful and said: We have repeatedly announced — and this has been confirmed by the International Atomic Energy Agency — that Iran's aim in obtaining nuclear energy is to use it for peaceful purposes and meet its energy requirements. With regard to chemical weapons, too, although we suffered great harm from Iraqi chemical weapons during the imposed war of Iraq against Iran — and although we even treated injured Iraqis and are continuing to do so — we never allowed ourselves to retaliate in kind.

The president stressed: We consider the use of chemical weapons to be inhuman and inhumane and the U.S. accusations in this regard are untrue.

In response to a question about the achievements of the Islamic revolution, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: People who know about Iran are aware that the clear-cut majority of the Iranian people are very pleased about the results of the Islamic revolution and, in view of the government's extensive efforts to develop rural and deprived regions and to strengthen the foundations of the economy, today we have been transformed from a dependent and importing country to a self-sufficient and independent country that exports many products.

The president mentioned the existence of freedom of speech and strong criticism of the government and the president from public tribunes as evidence of the existence of freedom and competition in the country and said: The Iranian people are striding decisively, with strong resolve and determination, down the path of the aims of the Islamic revolution, of the late Imam Khomeyni and of the eminent leader, and they deal with issues reasonably and logically.

The president said the following about the effects of the U.S. economic embargo against Iran: Since we do not consider ourselves to be dependent on the U.S. economy, the U.S. actions and propaganda uproar do not in practice have an important impact on our country's economy.

Tehran Radio Comments on Interview

LD1605122495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0954 GMT 16 May 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the wake of the failure of the United States to gain the support of its allies in its

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trade embargo against Iran and the intensification of the criticism by Western politicians of the weakness of the Clinton administration's foreign policy, a reporter from the U.S. ABC television channel interviewed President Hashemi-Rafsanjani yesterday.

The interview, which included the rejection of all the baseless U.S. accusations against Iran and the confirmation of Iran's goodwill in the international affairs arena, in fact took the form of a debate in which the president used the format of an interview with a U.S. reporter to convey the message of the Islamic revolution to the U.S. nation and to expose the baselessness of the U.S. administration's ill-judged policies.

In response to a question about terrorism and its real supporters, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the traces left by acts of terrorism carried out in Iran as testimony to the fact that Iran is itself a victim of terrorism. In turn, he condemned the support given by the United States to terrorists and the complicity between Zionism and the United States.

With regard to economic sanctions and their effects, the president also voiced the reality that we are not dependent on the U.S. economy and spoke of Clinton's empty-handed return from Russia as strong evidence that nothing significant is going to happen to Iran as a result of the U.S. embargo.

The thing which was felt clearly throughout the interview was that Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani was addressing the U.S. nation by putting his own questions to the U.S. reporter and insisting on receiving replies. For example, after asserting that the U.S. accusations in connection with the bomb explosion in Argentina, Iranian efforts to produce chemical weapons, and other similar charges had been proven unfounded, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani mentioned the U.S. administration's inclination to lie and disgrace itself; the reporter was unable to give an answer and was forced to change the subject.

After all the U.S. Government's propaganda commotion and the certainty about the baselessness of its numerous and repetitious accusations against Iran, however, it is now clear that this is the best time to ask this question: What has the Clinton administration gained so far through its sanctions against Iran for the U.S. nation and what evidence or documentary proof has it presented in support of its claims? And why is it that the International Atomic Energy Agency, European countries, and even the closest allies of the White House have shown no inclination to fall into step with the faulty and specious U.S. foreign policy?

These questions are part and parcel of the realities which, in Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's opinion, can only be answered by the disgrace and shame of U.S. officials.

Another essential point dealt with the reason behind the displeasure felt by the Iranian people toward the U.S. Government. In the interview, the U.S. reporter could not understand the continued survival of the slogan "Death to America" and expressed surprise that this slogan was written on the wall in the hotel at which he was staying in Tehran. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's explanation in this regard — exposing the 17-year-long conspiracies by the United States, including support for the monarchical regime, economic sanctions, freezing Iran's assets, attacking a passenger aircraft and martyring 300 innocent people, as well as many other cases — adequately shed light on the Iranian nation's stance against the U.S. attacks.

It is hoped that the U.S. nation will receive the clear message emerging from the president's interview and that it will, instead of resorting to unfounded hypotheses and, ultimately, losing face as a result of the White House's policies, search for the real roots of the U.S. Government's recent defeats in the 17-year-long record of that country's politicians.

Va'ezi Discusses U.S. Sanctions, Other Issues

NC1205113795 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 4 May 95 pp 12, 14

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with ETTELA'AT, [Mahmud] Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister for Europe and the United States, discussed U.S. objectives behind the trade sanctions on Iran, Tehran-Moscow nuclear cooperation, Iran's relations with major European countries, the change in the structure of the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization], and the shaping of a set of laws for the Caspian Sea.

Referring to the propaganda atmosphere created recently, he said: The roots of this should be sought in the United States. He added: During the elections in late 1994 the Republicans gained a majority in both houses, the first time in 40 years. This was a great success for the Republicans and a defeat for the Democrats and for Clinton's actions.

Va'ezi pointed out: This sparked off an early election campaign in the United States. In the past propaganda pressure increased only when the elections were near. But even with over 18 months left until the elections in the United States, rivalry between the two factions has already started, and each side is maneuvering those issues that interest them for the sake of votes. Thus the Democrats, and, specifically, the Clinton administration,

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have resorted to this initiative to gain the favors of the Zionist lobby inside the United States. Middle East peace is used as a pretext, since it is a topic of interest for the Zionists. So the U.S. propaganda pressure is being inflicted in order to show that Clinton is doing what the Zionists want him to do.

The deputy foreign minister for Europe and the United States referred to the hostile relations between Iran and the regime occupying Jerusalem and said: The Americans raised the issue of an embargo on Iran during the Zionists' congress. This shows that the Clinton administration has become a hostage in the hands of the U.S. Zionists. We all know that if an administration wants to regulate its policies on Iran with the Zionists, this is the way it goes about it.

He added: During the past 16 years we have lived comfortably without the United States. We have had economic relations with other countries and regulated our policies. Our statesmen and our country's economic sectors have good experience in this field, and they are using this as a basis on which to act. We are not worried about the sanctions.

The Sale of Oil

Referring to the valuable experience of our country's Petroleum Ministry in the sale of oil, Va'ezi said: We have behind us the very difficult era of the war. Our Petroleum Ministry proved to be successful then. Things will be much better and much easier now with the new sanctions. And, since we have close relations based on mutual trust with most of the large oil companies, we do not think we will face any problems in selling our oil.

Stressing that since the victory of the revolution no U.S. investment has been made in Iran, the deputy foreign minister for Europe and the United States said: Stating that the United States will not invest in Iran is meaningless. So we are not worried about the U.S. decision.

Commenting on U.S. allegations on Iran's nuclear cooperation with Russia and allegations on terrorism, Va'ezi said: Our stance is clear and is not at all what the Americans say.

We in Iran were victims of weapons of mass destruction, especially during the war. So it is part of our policy that we and others should not seek to acquire weapons of mass destruction. Our view is that all the region should be free from nuclear arms. We have a positive stance on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] and will sign it.

Va'ezi added: Contrary to propaganda, we do not oppose the signing of the NPT. In other words, we agree with this pact in principle. But as a country that has been the victim of such weapons, a country that is near Israel or in an area where other countries are arming themselves with the nuclear weapon, we have our own outlook and state it. We state that we cannot accept that in the 25 years since the signing of the NPT, Israel has been extensively armed with nuclear weapons by the United States. We do not accept the policy of double standards. The Arab countries in the region too oppose the policy of double standards. Our policy on nuclear arms is clear, and this is why our cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] is very close.

Reiterating that our policies on nuclear issues are very clear and that there is nothing to hide, Va'ezi stated: There is no reason why we should not cooperate with the body in question (the IAEA); our agreement with Russia to complete the Bushehr project comes within this context.

Va'ezi stressed: For the same reason the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant had to be built by Western companies before the revolution victory (part of the project was completed at that time) and was a project every country regarded favorably, now too this project should be continued and completed. And we should not waste our oil.

We sell our oil and we use the money we get to rebuild our country. If the nuclear power plant is harmful and we should not use a nuclear power plant to generate electricity, the same should apply elsewhere. And if a nuclear power plant is economically beneficial, the same should apply to us. We cannot accept a policy of double standards on this issue.

Stating that the Iranian-Russian nuclear agreement is very clear, the deputy foreign minister for Europe and the United States added: Russian officials are confident that the work we have started is within the context of economic activities, that is, for the generation of electricity.

Referring to the increasing political and propaganda pressure on Russia by the United States, he said: Since we have nothing to hide in our relations with Russia, the Russian positions have been specific and clear. What we have in mind is the completion of the Bushehr Power Plant, and if we have held other preliminary talks it has been on the issue of electricity generation, nothing more. We have held talks with Russia on peaceful nuclear cooperation or on the economic use of nuclear energy, and we have not touched upon the issue of nuclear arms and have not held talks leading to this.

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The U.S. and Russian Presidents will meet in Moscow. We will witness propaganda and pressure on Russia so that Moscow will be forced to cancel this healthy cooperation with Iran.

The U.S.-Russian Summit

Commenting on next week's talks between the heads of Russia and the United States in Moscow, our deputy foreign minister said: During the past year we have seen that Russian policy on regional countries has been a policy of cooperation and of expanding relations in the political and economic fields; this is why it has established favorable regional political and economic relations with most countries, most notably Iran. We hope Russian officials will not be affected by negative propaganda and political pressure. Of course Russian officials can insist on their objectives and their decisions; and it is below the dignity of Russia to be affected by pressure from other countries and powers and not to decide for itself.

He added: Russia can do this, and we hope that in view of its commitments toward Iran and other regional countries, it will show that it is not affected by others.

This is a positive point that both the big countries in this region can use to expand their relations and move toward expansion on the path charted by such elements.

Pointing out that one of the U.S. objectives is to prevent the formation of regional bonds that include Iran, he said: We think that the Russian officials are aware of their own policies and those of the region, and they will definitely not make any decisions that would sour the regional countries' views of Russia's commitments to them.

He pointed out that by using terrorism as a pivotal issue in anti-Iranian propaganda, they are making us a victim of terrorism. We condemn terrorism in any form. This U.S. propaganda is a screen to hide its own activities in the region. We have repeatedly condemned that type of worldwide terrorism, and we believe that what the U.S. government says about us has nothing to do with politics or logic. We believe that all this has taken on a personal character and is therefore being ignored by world statesmen.

The Industrial Countries' Response to the United States

Commenting on the industrial countries' reaction to the U.S. embargo on Iran, Mr. Va'ezi said: Fortunately we have established good relations in both the public and private sectors with most countries in Europe and the Far East, which the Americans are calling on to limit their relations with us.

Our links with the European countries have historic roots. Both we and the European countries consider it our right to have healthy economic ties. A country on the other side of the world certainly cannot affect our bilateral relations.

The world is very competitive today. Even though world is replete with slogans about economic freedom, this principle is not heeded by governments or by companies. The economic ties between Iran and most of the countries in Europe and the Far East are such that severing them would not benefit anyone. Our economic relations with the world are such that both sides benefit. U.S. companies are opposing Clinton's decision because it will hurt them. But they have no choice but to heed their government's decision. But there is no need for European companies to obey Clinton.

Iran is a large country with immense gas resources and mines, and it enjoys an important geopolitical position. Iran is also a bridge linking Central Asia with the world. The existence of immense resources in the Caspian Sea also adds to our country's significance. All these are facts Europe, Japan, and the Islamic countries cannot ignore. That is why the Western countries—or, according to the Americans, "America's allies"—are not prepared to ignore their own interests because of the hostile relations between us and the United States; it is not as though the United States can do much about this. In other words, the United States will be defeated in this policy. If it was sure that its policy would succeed, it would not have resorted to so much propaganda in the first place.

The Issue of Iran's Relations with Major European Countries

Describing relations between Iran and the major European countries as normal, Va'ezi said: Just as we in Iran have our principles and values, other countries too have principles they observe. Therefore, as long as the two sides respect each other's principles and values, it is only natural for relations to be normal. But once one side tries to dictate its principles and values, problems will naturally arise.

In the years since the victory of the Revolution, we have shown that we are not ready to compromise our values and principles in dealings with other countries. Fortunately this has been clarified to those who deal with us, and it is on this basis that we have established relations with countries such as Germany, France, Italy, Spain, etc. The political and economic contacts with these countries are on this same basis. Of course we criticize some of their policies and they criticize some of ours. But this is only natural.

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In the world today we should listen to each other. Our expanding relations with Europe are based on this. For example, in the Second Five-Year Plan, France enjoys a much better position; and regardless of which presidential candidates wins, no problems will arise in Franco-Iranian relations. Moreover, our assessment of the elections is that the situation will improve.

Therefore, our relations with France in both the political and economic fields will improve. Germany is our number one trade partner and we have common bonds with it. In the Second Plan, Germany will maintain this position. There still are problems between us and Britain, so bilateral talks should continue until the future of our relations is guaranteed. If we in our country are able to clarify our political relations with Britain, our economic relations will definitely rapidly change too. But until this happens, our bilateral economic relations will remain at the current level.

We do not have any special problems with the other European countries. We hope that during the Second Plan and in view of the policies that have been set, as well as with the attention that is being paid to economic relations with these countries, we can come closer to each other.

How the ECO Structure Can Be Changed

The deputy foreign minister for Europe and the United States then spoke about the need to change the ECO structure. He said: As one of the three major members and founders of the ECO, Iran believes that this organization should be dynamic, active, and capable of linking its 10 members so that the necessary facilities can be created for all of them to enjoy the economic benefits that would result. The special tariffs on both sides should be reduced so that economic relations, transportation, telecommunications, and customs can be facilitated.

This is our view, as one of the founding members of ECO, and it is fortunately supported by the other members too.

Meanwhile, we believe that if good relations are established among the ECO members, it will have a direct impact on the Central Asian countries. That is why the ECO organs should pursue this objective. Any proposal in the ECO or any other organization should meet legal requirements, be studied, be submitted to comment by the member nations, and then receive final approval at a summit.

How a Set of Laws on the Caspian Sea Can Be Adopted

Commenting on determining laws for the Caspian Sea, the deputy foreign minister said: We believe that the Caspian Sea should be a basin of peace and friendship for its five littoral countries. The Caspian Sea should link these five countries. That is why during the ECO summit in Ashgabat, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani proposed that the five littoral countries form an organization for economic cooperation. Fortunately this proposal was accepted by the littoral countries and a draft on its formation is being prepared.

This is our general outlook. But since the Caspian Sea is landlocked and the laws governing such a sea should be set by its littoral countries, on the basis of international law the five countries should adopt laws acceptable to all sides. Laws that satisfy one country 100 percent but are criticized 100 percent by another country certainly cannot be acceptable. We should compromise on something that includes the views of all the littoral countries.

What the Republic of Azerbaijan has been saying so far is not correct. There are other formulas that can be used. For example, a joint session can be held and discussions continue until all sides are satisfied. In is wrong for the fact that the Republic of Azerbaijan to draft a set of laws by itself before this process is completed. It has divided up the Caspian Sea, thinking that it can use the influence of the countries whose companies belong to the consortium. And this is why we emphasize that until the laws governing the Caspian Sea are determined, no agreement for oil exploration can be valid. The Republic of Azerbaijan's insistence on this issue only assures that differences will increase even more. Therefore, first a set of laws should be agreed on and then activities regarding exploration for oil and other energy forms can be carried out.

Pilgrims Express 'Hatred' of U.S., Israel

LD1205183195 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As you know, pilgrims to the house of God have held the disavowal of infidels ceremony, a divine-political duty expressing disgust and hatred toward the enemies of Islam, particularly the United States and the Zionist regime. Our correspondents in Holy Mecca made every effort during the past few days to send pictures of the ceremony, but this was not possible until today, because of many difficulties.

Although it has not been possible to capture all of the glorious ceremony on film because of limitations

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imposed by the Saudi Government, I ask you to watch parts of the disavowal ceremony held by the pilgrims to the house of God against the world infidels and hypocrites. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [crowd chants: "Muslims renounce the acts of infidels," "There is only one God and Mohammad is his prophet," "America and Zionism are against the Islamic umma, Death to America, Death to Israel."]

[Unidentified pilgrim] And now the great God and the blessed chosen one of God, who is present in this land, can witness how their friends have gathered here to renounce the infidels and the enemies of God. With God's blessing we have been able to carry out our duty.

[Second unidentified pilgrim] This is the essence of Islam and all divine teachings.

[Third unidentified pilgrim] We renounce and express disgust toward the United States, the contemporary flag bearer of infidels and rebels.

[crowd chants: "There is only one God and Mohammad is his prophet"] [end recording]

Report Views Opposition's Approval of Sanctions

NC1605191195 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 9 May 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "For Your Information—the Result of the Monafeqin's Wooing"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The head of the terrorist Monafeqin [meaning hypocrites—pejorative term for Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] group who resides in Iraq under Saddam's patronage issued a message from his hideout in Baghdad. In the message he described Clinton's action on the economic boycott of Iran a courageous one and requested him to accept the honorary membership of the Monafeqin's Council.

The remarks of this fugitive terrorist, which were disseminated in the organization's inner circle, have been issued at a time when in view of his former collaboration with Iraq in its aggression against Iran he is the focus of the hatred and repudiation of the Iranians at home and abroad.

It is worth mentioning that while all countries have rejected Clinton's request for an economic boycott of Iran and have deemed this action as opposed to their interests, the Monafeqin group held a celebration and dance in Iraq and called on other countries to join in this embargo!

It may be stated that the Monafeqin group, which has reached an impasse in Iraq, has stepped up its activities overtly and holds free dance and music concerts to attract the Iranians abroad. It has also increased its covert activities in the field of espionage to the benefit of the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially the Zionist regime and naturally the United States. However, the statement by the U.S. State Department, which has denounced the Monafeqin group as an undemocratic terrorist organization, or sect, despite its sycophantic overtures, has revealed the extent of its popularity even among its own mentors.

UN Session on Israel's 'Expansion' Noted

NC1305060395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 13 May 95

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The UN Security Council started its open session last night to study the Zionist regime's recent usurpation of 53 hectares of Palestinian land in eastern Jerusalem. On the eve of the session, which has convened at the request of the Arab countries, the Zionist regime said that UN interference in this issue is dangerous. Also, the Israeli representative at the United Nations said that no one should expect the expansion of Jerusalem to stop and that the Security Council session will not affect this process.

Political analysts believe that if the Security Council discussions on the Zionist regime's expansionist policies in Jerusalem are not vetoed by the United States, once again the solution of the Middle East crisis on a legal basis will be strengthened. Since 1946 when the Zionist regime occupied Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip, the UN Security Council had described these lands as occupied territory in several of its resolutions and had called on Israel to unconditionally withdraw from them.

At the Madrid Conference, which was held four years ago to resolve the Middle East crisis, even though these resolutions were said to form the basis of a solution to this crisis, with U.S. pressures all the compromise deals signed so far have been within the unequal framework of the power ruling the Middle East.

In the Oslo pact, the PLO compromised with the Zionist regime without clarifying the situation of Jerusalem. This is one of the most major problems that 'Arafat's opponents stress and why they consider the Oslo pact to be treacherous.

Meanwhile, it is apparent that U.S. opposition to this issue being brought up at the Security Council is completely political in nature and that its statement

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that the council is not a suitable venue to discuss such differences is nothing but a cover-up for this policy. Despite the outcomes that the discussions on the issue of Jerusalem at the Security Council will have, not only will it bring to light the expansionist and aggressive policies of the Zionist regime and its insistence on continuing these policies under all circumstances, but it will also disgrace the international mentors of such policies.

Revolutionary Guards Said Fighting Taleban

MM1505115695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 May 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan: "Iran Supports Rabbani Against Taleban Movement"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Peshawar — Well-informed Afghan sources told AL-HAYAH yesterday that Iranian Revolutionary Guard men are fighting alongside Afghan presidential forces in the southwest of the country against Taleban movement fighters. The sources, which derived their information from reports prepared by international quarters, said that at least 1,000 fighters and military experts belonging to the Iranian Revolutionary Guard took part in the recent fighting, as a result of which Taleban was forced to retreat in some areas in Velayat-e Farah.

Commenting on this, Afghan military sources said, "it is difficult for Afghan presidential forces to carry out 15 air raids in the conditions they are experiencing without foreign help."

Observers noted that this coincided with the Iranian media's focus on the victories achieved by presidential forces against Taleban. And the official IRNA has been keen to transmit reports on these victories. Observers attributed that to Tehran's fear that the Pashtu majority, represented by the Taleban movement, which is supported by Pakistan, might return to power. It prefers the rule of the Tajik minority, represented by Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani and his aide, former Defense Minister General Ahmad Mas'ud Shah, who will need the support of the other minorities, especially the Shiites. [passage omitted]

Conference Held on Foreign Exchange Policy

Smuggling, Export Issues Addressed

LD1505124695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The fifth conference on monetary and foreign exchange policy, aimed at examining the country's monetary and foreign exchange policy, analyzing the effects of Iran's membership in the World Trade Organization, and carrying out a comparative study of OPEC member countries and southeast Asian countries, as well as assessing domestic and international economic issues, opened in Tehran today.

According to the Central News Unit, at the conference, which is being attended by over 1,200 economic experts, researchers, banking officials, and university lecturers, Mr. [Morteza] Mohammad-Khani, minister of economic affairs and finance, and Mr. [Mohsen] Nurbakhsh, governor of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, spoke of the government's economic successes in terms of infrastructural matters under the first [five-year] plan, analyzed the country's current economic situation, and described the government's policies for creating economic stability.

On the fringe of the conference, Mr. Mohammad-Khani took part in an exclusive interview in which he told our reporter: Unfortunately, the foreign exchange rate [for the dollar] has turned into an artificial standard for setting prices in our society and this has had a practical impact on the price of the country's essential goods and domestic products.

He said: We predicted that we would face economic effects resulting from psychological problems in circumstances in which we have to confront global arrogance, especially the United States. Adequate authority and powers have therefore been granted to the government — in the course of the meetings of the Expediency Council — in order to combat the smuggling of goods and foreign exchange, so that the government may act, in accordance with the agreed norms and regulations, toward establishing stability in the economy and the foreign exchange rate and toward regulating the market.

Stressing the point that new procedures on trade will insure economic stability, he said: The new decisions, which will be announced by the end of this week, will stipulate a rate which will remain in place in practice for one year as a general policy.

For his part, Central Bank Governor Nurbakhsh spoke about the government's success in increasing nonoil exports and said that the country's foreign exchange revenue during 1373 [corresponding to 1994/95] from nonoil exports was about $5 billion, adding: Under the new procedures, the direct link between exporters and importers will be severed and the banking system will purchase exporters' foreign exchange and put it at the disposal of importers.

The Central Bank governor did not announce a specific price for foreign exchange in the banking system under the new procedures, but said: This rate will be at a level which will encourage exports and the government's

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overall policy is for export activities to yield a higher profit than other activities. As to whether this rate will be fixed or floating, he said: This rate may change in line with other economic parameters. In any event, exporters' profits will be guaranteed.

Bank Leader Interviewed at Conference

LD1505130295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As you were informed in the news bulletin, the fifth conference on national monetary and foreign exchange policies began in Tehran today in order to study the national monetary and foreign exchange policies. On the fringe of the conference our reporter Ja'fari spoke to the Central Bank head Mohsen Nurbakhsh to which we draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Ja'fari] Mr. Nurbakhsh! In the past few days we have witnessed severe fluctuations in the value of the rial against foreign exchange rates. What are the causes of the fluctuations? What parameters affect the fluctuations? What has the Central Bank decided to do to prevent them?

[Nurbakhsh] One of the aims of the second [five-year development] plan was to increase nonoil exports. This was to make us independent of oil revenues and to provide us with income from nonoil sources. Fortunately, these operations have been very good. In fact during the past Iranian year [ending 21 March 1995], while about $10 billion from oil revenue was spent on imports, the income from nonoil exports stood at about $5 billion. The ratio is now about two to one. Of course, if you compare the pre-plan and pre- revolution figures the difference is much greater. This was one of the fundamental imbalances in our economy: While the country's foreign exchange rate expenditure stood at over $20 billion, the value of the nonoil exports stood at about $1 billion or even less. Well, now that the ratio is a healthy one, a one-to-two ratio of let us say 5 billion nonoil income and 10 billion oil revenue, the question to ask is this: How should the nonoil export revenues enter and be used in domestic commerce? Fluctuations in foreign exchange rate prices tend to reflect the methods of blending the foreign exchange rates from nonoil exports into our economy. In the previous method, the importer was to purchase foreign exchanges from the exporter, but with the social psychological climate and the increase in prices the exporter waited for an opportunity to hold back his foreign exchange so as to enable the price to increase in due course. The importer was also concerned that the price was to increase in future and thus wanted to buy the foreign exchange as quickly as possible. We had a race between the two elements of the equation resulting in the price increase of the foreign exchange.

In our studies, we reached the conclusion that relations between the two were not balanced, and that if this was to continue there would naturally be price increases, and that if the banking system was to introduce a fund — we usually use some of our own resources when providing foreign exchanges for production units — we could tell the importer that we would provide for his needs, temporarily and for the time being, and that he could get his foreign exchange from us. In turn we could ask the exporter to put all his foreign exchange revenue into the banking system. Therefore, the exporter would not expect increases in the price of foreign exchanges — encouraging him to hold back his foreign exchange — and the importer would not be concerned about future price increases — rushing him to buy and push up prices. Therefore, we would have stability in the price of foreign exchanges available for exports and its blending in the national economy and national production, as well as its usefulness in people's everyday life.

[Ja'fari] The new measures would in fact end direct contact between the importer and exporter?

[Nurbakhsh] That is correct. There is no need to establish that contact. There is no need for the importer to seek an exporter to sell his foreign exchange. Therefore, there would be a balance in relations between the two.

[Ja'fari] With these measures in mind, has the foreign exchange been allocated a price?

[Nurbakhsh] As a rule, the price should stand somewhere to encourage exports. Both the cabinet and the person of the president have that principle in mind and that activity for export should have greater rewards than domestic activity.

[Ja'fari] Is the price fixed or floating?

[Nurbakhsh] As a rule, the price could change with other economic parameters so that it would be worthwhile for the exporter to continue his exports. [end recording]

*JAHAN-E ESLAM Closing by Rafsanjani Viewed

95LA0163A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 12 Mar 95 pp 40-43

[Unattributed article: "Rafsanjani Closed JAHAN-E ESLAM and Opened Battle for Presidency"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The surprise at Iran's revolution holiday celebrations this year was not limited to the appearance of Chinese balloons decorated with pictures of Khomeini and Khamene'i that guards released

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into the air to explode and rain plastic confetti on the heads of the throngs in Freedom Square. The surprise that caused Iranians to marvel was President Rafsanjani's decision to close the newspaper JAHAN-E ESLAM ("The World of Islam"). This was no ordinary newspaper like Iran's innumerable other nongovernmental newspapers that discuss everything but politics and subjects that do not involve freedom, democracy, popular sovereignty, literature, art, and committed culture. JAHAN-E ESLAM was one of the most prominent landmarks of "pure revolutionary Muhammadan Islam" and a pillar of Khomeiniism-Khamene'iism. It seemed to be more uncompromising than its predecessors in dealing with citizens and less astute in comprehending the new international reality and international relations. JAHAN-E ESLAM's founder and editor in chief was Hojjat ol-Eslam Hadi Khamene'i, brother of the spiritual leader of the revolution and a leader of the radical current. Hadi Khamene'i represented the city of Mashhad in the previous session of the Iranian parliament, but, having lost in elections for the current session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, he took to publishing JAHAN-E ESLAM.

Although the newspaper SALAM, published by Mohammad Musavi (Khu'ini-ha), nicknamed "the Red Hojjatollah" because of his link to the Iranian Communist Party and his role in occupying the U.S. embassy and detaining U.S. diplomats at the start of the revolution, is a more important and older defender of religious extremism and political radicalism than JAHAN-E ESLAM, the fact that JAHAN-E ESLAM's owner and publisher is a brother of the revolution's spiritual leader made it an impregnable citadel that President Rafsanjani was unable to challenge. When JAHAN-E ESLAM announced before the celebration of the revolution holiday that it would publish an important exclusive interview with former interior minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the founder of Hizballah in Lebanon, on the anniversary of the revolution, it became clear that Hadi Khamene'i had decided to challenge President Rafsanjani publicly and that the period of civility and cease-fire between the president and his extremist opponents had ended. One should recall that the revolution's spiritual guide, 'Ali Khamene'i, intervened last September after Rafsanjani threatened to resign if the extremists continued their propaganda attacks against the government. Khamene'i ordered his brother Hadi, his friend (Khu'ini-ha), and his representative on the newspaper KAYHAN, Hosein Shari'at-Madari, to deal more flexibly with the president and his team.

Strong Language

Not satisfied with publishing his interview with Mohtashemi, Hadi Khamene'i published in his newspaper several strongly worded articles and reports against the government and those he described as "people of corruption" and "frauds." In the first and second installments of the Mohtashemi interview, JAHAN-E ESLAM quoted the former interior minister as saying that he had gone to Imam Khomeini during the Israeli attack on Lebanon and had requested that the Iranian army be sent to Beirut and Damascus to counter the Israeli advance. Mohtashemi revealed that Khomeini at first had agreed to his request, but that he had retreated from his position despite Mohtashemi's urgent appeal. Khomeini had said to Mohtashemi, "We cannot confront Israel. First we must defeat Iraq; then we can launch our attack against Israel from liberated Iraqi territory." Mohtashemi also spoke in his interview about the Lockerbie incident (the bombing of the U.S. passenger airplane), implying the existence of a link between the incident and the downing of an Iranian civilian airplane over the Gulf by the U.S. Navy. Coinciding with the publication of the Mohtashemi interview, JAHAN-E ESLAM raised the subject of widespread corruption in government departments and cases of fraud at Bank Saderat and the Agency for the Oppressed.

According to Iranian sources close to President Rafsanjani, this time the president did not complain to the revolution's spiritual leader about his brother's behavior and the program of his newspaper JAHAN-E ESLAM. Instead, he informed Khamene'i that the situation had become unacceptable and that he would not allow a minority hostile to his reform program to wreck everything the government had built in recent years. Rafsanjani then summoned the minister of guidance, Engineer Mostafa Mirsalim, and ordered him to confiscate the Thursday, 9 February, issue of JAHAN-E ESLAM and to form a high-level press board to rule on the newspaper's violations of the press law. On the morning of Saturday, 11 February, while Rafsanjani was giving his speech on the anniversary of the victory of the revolution, the board held its meeting under the chairmanship of the assistant minister of guidance. In less than an hour, it decided to cancel the license of JAHAN-E ESLAM.

Impregnable Citadel

Thus, Rafsanjani ridded himself of one of his most implacable enemies by halting the impregnable JAHAN-E ESLAM, which during the last four years had never flagged in casting doubt on his achievements and opposing his steps to normalize Iran's relations with the West and the Gulf states.

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The question being raised in circles interested in Iranian affairs abroad is whether Rafsanjani's problems have ended with the cancellation of JAHAN-E ISLAM's publication license. Can the Iranian president now and in the remaining time of his presidency regain respect for himself and make his decisions more boldly?

The answer certainly is not affirmative. JAHAN-E ESLAM was only one front from which the radicals fired their salvos at the presidency. Other fronts still offer their product to revolutionary customers from Madagascar to the Philippines. Iran is more than one besieged citadel: Foremost among them is the citadel of clerical rule, and then there is the citadel of the renewal of Rafsanjani's presidency.

[Begin box]

Radical Iranian Press Organizations

1. The Kayhan Press Organization, founded by former senator Dr. Mostafa Mesbahzadeh 50 years ago, is considered one of the region's greatest press organizations and the second press organization after ETTELA'AT in Iran. The organization is under the supervision of Hosein Shari'at- Madari, the representative of the revolution's spiritual guide. It publishes the Persian-language daily KAYHAN, the English-language KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, KAYHAN AL-'ARABI, the magazine ZAN-E RUZ ("Today's Woman"), and the magazine KAYHAN SPORTS. The Kayhan Organization publishes a number of monthly and quarterly cultural, religious, literary, and scholarly magazines, as well as the weekly newspaper KAYHAN-E HAVA'I for overseas Iranians. The Kayhan newspapers follow a line opposing the Rafsanjani government, advocating exporting the revolution, confrontation with the West, opposing Middle East peace, and no normalization with the Gulf States and Egypt.

2. The newspaper SALAM, mouthpiece of the League of Militant Ulema, also propounds the line of Imam [Khomeini] and revolutionary extremism. That the newspaper publishes citizens' complaints does not mean that it sides with the people against the government. Rather, it confirms that (Khu'ini-ha) and the newspaper's editor in chief, Engineer 'Abbas 'Abdi (spokesman for Students of the Line of the Imam), and former speaker of parliament Mehdi (Karubi) use supporting popular demands and defending citizens' rights as a veil for achieving their political goals, weakening Rafsanjani, and preventing his reelection.

3. The newspaper RESALAT is published by former public prosecutor Ayatollah Azari-Qomi, one of the senior figures of the Qom seminary, and is funded by a number of merchants. It too belongs to the opposition to Rafsanjani, although it supports market economics and opposes economic methods linked to socialism and expanding the role of the public sector. RESALAT's opposition to Rafsanjani's reform program strengthened in recent months after the Iranian president announced his war on monopolists. Undoubtedly it is the monopolists who by their aid are encouraging Azari-Qomi and his group to escalate the attacks on the government.

Beside these daily newspapers, there are weekly magazines published by the Shahid Organization, the Revolutionary Guard's Doctrinal Department, and the Islamic Propaganda Organization, which is responsible for exporting the revolution through information. They follow a path different from Rafsanjani's policies domestically and internationally. Although progovernment newspapers such as ETTELA'AT, (ABRAR), HAMSHAHRI, and IRAN NEWS are more numerous than the opposition newspapers, the latter are linked to the Office of the Guardian-Jurisprudent (Maktab-e Vali-ye Faqih) and are under the supervision of his representatives and companions; thus they have full freedom to attack the government and its accomplishments. Iranian citizens are, therefore, witnesses to an information confrontation one of whose parties is allowed to cut the neck of the other party, while the other party, forbidden to use a sword against its enemy, must content itself with sending complaints to the referee of the confrontation, 'Ali Khamene'i, who leans heart and soul toward the radicals. [end box]

Article Views Telephone Rate Increase

95LA0212B Tehran SALAM in Persian 26 Feb 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] **Reflection on the Telephone Rate Increase**

News Service

"Upon the suggestion of the Communication Company and the approval of the Supreme Economic Council, from the start of next year [21 March 1995], the rate of every pulse of telephone conversation (3 minutes) will increase up to 17 rials [R]." This report continues: "Based on this ratification, R12 will be collected from every customer for the cost of calls and R5 for the cost of development. This is the rate for calls for the residential network, and the administrative and commercial networks will have additional costs ratified last year."

"In Note 25 of the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] Budget Bill, the government was granted permission, in addition to the existing fees, to collect R2 from

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residential unit customers, R3 from administrative customers, and R4 from commercial customers per pulse."

Our honorable readers will recall that this year the Majles deputies and the Ministry of Post, Telegraph, and Telephone had a difference of opinion, in fact a "dispute," concerning the base price per telephone pulse, on the basis of which the Ministry believed the base rate per telephone pulse was R12 and the deputies believed it was R10. Ultimately, this resulted in the question of the deputies to the minister of post, telegraph, and telephone in the open session. After the question was referred to the Articles 88 and 90 Committee, the committee issued a ruling that the base rate for every telephone pulse must be reduced to R10.

After some time, when the deputies realized that the related minister had not implemented the ratification of the Articles 88 and 90 Committee, they quickly offered the Majles the inquiry proposal of Note 25 of the 1373 budget as very urgent, on the basis of which every telephone pulse would be R10 from the start of 1373. This action caused the Ministry of Post, Telegraph, and Telephone to retreat and calculate the rate at R10 from the start of 1373 and to agree to gradually, from Azar this year [22 November-21 December 1994], return the additional money it had collected for several months (which was announced to be about 5 billion tumans) and include it in the telephone bills, but it has not done so yet.

Now the question is why an issue so important, in which the Majles deputies participated (from posing the question to offering the very urgent bill), should be the subject of a price increase by the Economic Council? Is this action not ignoring the efforts of the deputies over several months? If the telephone rate is to increase next year, why was this increase not presented to the Majles in the 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996] budget?

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